United Nations A/73/113

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 100 (a) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

A total of 25 fellowships on disarmament were awarded each year in 2017 and 2018. In 2017, the programme lasted from 21 August to 27 October. The 2018 programme is scheduled for 20 August to 26 October.

The programme of studies continues to be structured in three segments. The first segment of the programme, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, introduced the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. It also included a study visit to Bern and Spiez organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. The second segment comprised study visits to international and regional organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament and arms control, including the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. The segment also comprised country visits at the invitation of the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea, as well as of the European Union. The third segment of the programme, held at Headquarters, was aimed in particular at familiarizing the fellows with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat.

The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament to a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. To date, the programme has trained 983 officials

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from 167 States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament and international security in their own governments.

The Secretary-General is gratified to note that the number of women nominated as fellows has remained high during the two-year reporting period. Against this background, the United Nations selected 32 women to participate in the fellowship programme in 2017–2018, which represents 64 per cent of the total number of fellowships awarded during that period.

The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all the Member States and international organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/73, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly, among other things, commended the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme had continued to be carried out and requested him to continue to implement annually the programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-third session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

A. Fellowships for 2017 and 2018

2. A total of 25 fellowships were awarded in 2017 to the following officials:

Angola	Fernando Pedro Marques
Bhutan	Namgyel Sonam Choden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dario Krezić
Bulgaria	Darina Atanasova Zhelyazkova
Burkina Faso	Hema Doun-Sarma Safiatou Soulama Ouattara
Cambodia	Somalin San
Colombia	Laura Steffany Quintero-Buritica
France	Artida Minga
Germany	Lina-Marieke Hilgert
Guatemala	María del Rosario Estrada Girón
Haiti	Bernite Lazare François
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Javad Bakhshi
Israel	Dana Erlich
Kazakhstan	Gulsana Tulepbergenova
Madagascar	Hantavololona Ramahazosoa
Malaysia	Nur Azureen Mohd Pista
Mauritius	Tejaswinee Burumdoyal
Morocco	Lalla Saloua Moumni
Namibia	Magdalena Hilde Ndapandula Shipiki
Peru	Manuel Rodolfo Mundaca Peñaranda
Philippines	Karla Mae Gueriña Pabeliña
Saudi Arabia	Prince Salman Al Saud
Timor-Leste	Domingos Oki
Uganda	Tabitha Namulinda
State of Palestine	Fakhry Basem Fakhry Taha

3. In 2018, 25 fellowships were awarded to the following officials:

Afghanistan	Mohammad Jawad Raha
Australia	Merinda Cristiana Petersen
Azerbaijan	Nahida Baghirova
Botswana	Tshepang Thero Sethantsho
Brazil	Ernesto Batista Mané Júnior
China	Yao Yue
Costa Rica	Marcela Zamora Ovares
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Hervé Magaribi Lehani
Iceland	Finnbogi Rútur Finnbogason
Jamaica	Shae-Alicia Samantha Lewis
Japan	Nagisa Takahashi
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Venephet Philathong
Latvia	Ance Klava
Libya	Masaab E. M. Hamza
Maldives	Aishath Zeeshan Zuhuree
Mongolia	Amaraa Erdenebaatar
Montenegro	Goran Ruljić
Mozambique	Marta António Jorge Muando
Niger	Manga Mazou Mani
Pakistan	Muhammad Salman Khalid Chaudhary
Portugal	Rafaela Figueiredo Carvalho Miranda
Senegal	François Michel Moundor Diene
United States of America	Rachel Marie Hicks
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Arline Cristina Díaz Mendoza
Zimbabwe	Paidamwoyo Melinda Mitchelle Sigauke

4. Over the years, the efforts made by the United Nations to promote gender mainstreaming have resulted in a steady increase in the ratio of women to men who have been recipients of the fellowship. In 2017 and 2018, 32 of 50 fellowships were granted to women.

B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2017, the programme lasted from 21 August to 27 October. In 2018, the programme is scheduled for 20 August to 26 October. The programme of studies is structured in three segments: (a) activities at the United Nations Office at Geneva and at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland; (b) study visits to other Member States, at their invitation, and intergovernmental

organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control; and (c) activities at Headquarters.

6. Both the theory and the practice of disarmament are covered during the programme. On the one hand, the programme consists of lectures, presentations, round tables, panels and other forms of interactive group discussion with senior diplomats and officials from international organizations and representatives of academic institutions, civil society and think tanks on the functioning of disarmament machinery and on key disarmament issues. On the other hand, it comprises field visits; demonstrations of on-site inspections; visits to weapons destruction facilities, nuclear test sites, nuclear reactors and scientific laboratories; research projects; simulations of multilateral negotiations; and other practical exercises. The activities of the 2017 programme are summarized below. The 2018 programme will generally follow the 2017 syllabus and will contain updates to reflect recent developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

First segment

7. The first segment of the programme was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva and at other locations in Switzerland. In addition to receiving a general introduction to disarmament machinery and international humanitarian law, the fellows were instructed in various aspects of multilateral work on disarmament, including potential negotiations, through the work of the Conference on Disarmament and some Geneva-based treaty regimes [1] and research institutions dealing with disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

8. The fellows received briefings and lectures by senior representatives of various Member States, the office holders elected by the Conference on Disarmament and other treaty regimes, representatives of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, as well as by representatives of civil society, including those of the organizations Article 36, Geneva Disarmament Platform, Geneva Call and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

9. The fellows attended plenary meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and were briefed on a wide range of issues, including the history, achievements and current challenges faced by the Conference; the content, status and operation of the Geneva-based disarmament and arms control treaties; the latest developments in such fields as, among other things, improvised explosive devices; science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, including lethal autonomous weapons systems and cyberwarfare; and the role of non-governmental organizations in the multilateral disarmament process.

10. In addition, the fellows took part in a one-day visit to Bern and Spiez organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, during which they were briefed on Swiss foreign and security policy, with a focus on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, challenges relating to the evolution of disarmament and arms control negotiations, mine action, small arms and light weapons, ammunition

[1] The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its annexed protocols, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Arms Trade Treaty.

management and the Arms Trade Treaty. The fellows attended a manual mine clearance demonstration and observed a live demolition of anti-personnel mines at the explosive ordnance disposal centre of the Swiss armed forces. The fellows also visited Geneva City Hall at the invitation of the Republic and of the canton of Geneva. Similar visits are scheduled for the 2018 programme.

11. While in Geneva, the fellows were also required to conduct research and to present the outlines of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and international security.

Second segment

12. The second segment of the programme comprised study visits to several intergovernmental organizations: the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court in The Hague and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. This segment of the programme also included country study visits to Member States, at their invitation.

13. At OPCW, the fellows were briefed on the origins, operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and its verification procedures and implementation at the national level, and on various aspects of the work of OPCW and its contributions to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts and to promoting international cooperation and assistance. They heard an update on the activities of OPCW relating to the Syrian Arab Republic. Also included as part of the programme was a visit to the OPCW laboratory and equipment store in Rijswijk and a demonstration of equipment and of an on-site inspection.

14. Through study visits to the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, the fellows were instructed in the origins and functioning of the two courts. They were briefed on the procedures and jurisdiction of the two judicial institutions, including on the cases of the Court of Justice relating to nuclear weapons and its advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

15. During the visit to the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the fellows received comprehensive briefings on the origins and status of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the continuing efforts towards the universalization and entry into force of the Treaty, the work of the Preparatory Commission and the structure of the international monitoring system. They were briefed on the functioning of the verification regime and its civil and scientific applications and on the Integrated Field Exercise in 2014 and took part in a simulation of an on-site inspection.

16. The study visit to IAEA comprised briefings on the international legal framework and the implementation of the Agency safeguards system, the safety and security of nuclear materials and radioactive sources, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. A visit to the IAEA laboratories in Seibersdorf and to the safeguards equipment laboratory at the Vienna International Centre were also included.

17. While in Vienna, the fellows were briefed on the functioning of several export control regimes, such as the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies and the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and visited the OSCE secretariat, where they were updated on the involvement

of OSCE in arms control and maintaining security and cooperation in Europe and beyond.

18. The fellows also visited (a) the Office for Outer Space Affairs, where they attended presentations on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space law and the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space; (b) the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-proliferation, where they heard presentations on nuclear-weapon-free zones and on verifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and (c) the Zwentendorf nuclear power plant.

19. In 2017, the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea continued the established practice of inviting participants in the fellowship programme to visit their national institutions and to attend lectures on national policies and priorities in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In 2018, the Governments of China, Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea, as well as, for the first time, the European Union, have extended similar invitations.

20. The study visit to Germany in 2017 included briefings by representatives of the Federal Foreign Office, the International Security Division of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs and the Robert Koch Institute on a wide range of disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The fellows also visited Nammo Buck, in Pinnow, a plant used for the demilitarization of ammunition, projectiles, rockets, mines, grenades, fuses and pyrotechnical material. During the visit, the fellows were briefed on environmentally friendly and safe disposal processes for conventional weapons, ammunition and explosive products and observed the destruction of cluster munitions. The study visit to Germany in 2018 will include similar activities.

21. The study visit to Kazakhstan included visits to the former nuclear weapons test site Opytnoye Pole, a thermonuclear fusion reactor, the National Nuclear Centre and museum on the grounds of the Institute of Radiation Safety and Ecology in the city of Kurchatov, Kazakh National Medical University, a museum of anatomy and histology and several cultural sites in Semey city and Astana. The fellows also received briefings by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the policy and initiatives of Kazakhstan in the field of disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament issues.

22. The study visit to China included briefings by officials from the Department of Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by representatives of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association on key disarmament and non-proliferation issues, as well as a visit to the State Nuclear Security Technology Centre. The fellows visited Harbin and its museum at the site of Unit 731 of the Japanese Imperial Army, as well as historical and cultural sites in Beijing. The study visit to China in 2018 will include similar activities.

23. The study visit to the Republic of Korea included attendance at a seminar on the disarmament and non-proliferation policies of the country and the security perspective on the Korean Peninsula that included the participation of senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the Korea National Diplomatic Academy. The fellows also visited the demilitarized zone. The study visit to the Republic of Korea in 2018 will include similar activities.

24. The Government of Japan and the municipalities of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki again organized activities for the recipients of the disarmament fellowship in 2017. In Tokyo, the fellows heard presentations by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation on the efforts of Japan towards nuclear disarmament. In Hiroshima,

the fellows visited the Peace Memorial Museum, the Atomic Bomb Dome and the National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims. They were briefed by representatives of Hiroshima city and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, had discussions with survivors of the atomic bombing and visited the Radiation Effects Research Foundation. In Nagasaki, the fellows visited the Atomic Bomb Hypocenter and the Atomic Bomb Museum, the National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, Nagasaki Peace Park and the Nagai Tashika Memorial Museum. They also met survivors of the bombings and visited the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition. The study visit to Japan in 2018 will include similar activities.

25. The study visit to the European Union in 2018 will be the first in the history of the programme.

Third segment

26. The third segment of the programme, held at Headquarters, is intended to further familiarize the fellows with key disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues, as well as with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the mandate and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2017, this segment of the programme included a panel on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that involved the participation of five ambassadors and briefings and lectures by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and senior staff of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, senior diplomats and representatives of civil society and academic institutions on a range of subjects. The subjects included nuclear doctrines and approaches, the functioning of the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Nuclear Weapons and its review process, the responsibilities and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, items included in the agenda of the First Committee and multilateral diplomacy and decision-making within the United Nations. The fellows regularly attended meetings of the First Committee, as well as the joint meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to outer space security and sustainability.

27. Also while in New York, the fellows took part in a simulated negotiation exercise in the context of the Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, jointly organized with the Center for Global Affairs of New York University. The exercise included negotiations on effective legal measures towards the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the coordination of group positions and the introduction and consideration of an outcome document.

28. During the segment, the fellows finalized their research papers and gave presentations on the key findings thereof. At the end of the programme, they were awarded certificates of participation by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Chair of the First Committee.

III. Conclusion

29. The year 2018 marks the fortieth anniversary of the decision taken by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, in 1978, to launch a United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament aimed at promoting expertise in disarmament in Member States, in developing countries in particular. During its 39 years of operation, the programme has trained 983 officials from 167 States. The role of the programme in enhancing the capabilities of young diplomats to participate in disarmament deliberations and negotiations is well recognized and appreciated.

Today, many alumni hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament, including senior positions, within their own governments and in relevant international organizations. The broad support for the biennial resolution on the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services, as well as the large number of nominations for the programme received every year by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, is testimony to the undiminished interest of the Member States in the programme. The Secretary-General is particularly satisfied with the high number of women nominated for participation in the programme during the reporting period.

30. The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament towards a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control in the context of international security. The programme continues to play a decisive role in promoting multilateralism and facilitating a better understanding of the functioning of the United Nations disarmament machinery and of other institutions working in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at the global and regional levels, as well as of international security.

31. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to all States and organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success. He extends his particular appreciation to the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, as well as to the European Union, for their continued support for the programme. The Secretary-General also extends his grateful recognition to IAEA, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, OPCW, OSCE and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for their support for and contributions to the programme.

United Nations A/73/114

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2018
English
Original: Arabic/English/French/
Spanish

Seventy-third session
Item 99 (f) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Replies received from Member States	2
	Armenia	2
	Brunei Darussalam	3
	Cuba	4
	El Salvador	5
	Lebanon	6
	Madagascar	6
	Peru	8
	Portugal	7
	Ukraine	8

* A/73/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 72/35 on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, the General Assembly decided to give urgent consideration to this issue, and requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-third session. Any views received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs[1] in the language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Member States

Armenia

[Original: English]
[9 April 2018]

An effective and functioning conventional arms control regime is essential for military transparency, predictability and security at the international, regional and subregional levels. Lack of transparency leads to mistrust and instability. In this regard, full and all-weather implementation of conventional arms control agreements and adherence to the guiding principles of the arms control regime, namely, transparency, sufficiency, verification and limitation, are necessary.

The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is one of the pillars of security and stability in Europe. Its implementation has promoted an unprecedented and wide-scale disarmament process in Europe and the growth of transparency in the conventional arms-control sphere. The Treaty has played a vital role as a stabilizing factor during the transition period in the European security environment.

Armenia is actively participating in the Structured Dialogue within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is an informal platform for discussions on the avenues of strengthening and revitalizing the conventional arms control regime in Europe. The principled position of the Armenian side is that any new conventional armed regime should be based on a legally binding document, which must be of an "all-weather" nature and its implementation not be subject to any condition.

Agreed OSCE confidence- and security-building measures, such as the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, Global Exchange of Military Information, Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and Stabilizing Measures for Localized Crisis Situations, are important and mutually reinforcing tools to enhance transparency and confidence, thus contributing to regional security and stability.

Armenia is committed to the maintenance of the legally binding conventional arms control regime in Europe and fully complies with its obligations on force limitations, on-site inspections and exchange of information on its armed forces under the Treaty.

During 2017, Armenia received, in total, 10 inspections and evaluation visits under the Treaty, the Vienna Document and bilateral arrangements, the reports of which have testified to Armenia's compliance with the letter and spirit of the above-mentioned documents. The Armenian side has provided all opportunities for the inspection teams to conduct their activities in an efficient and transparent manner. Armenia has ensured a high level of transparency and openness with regard to the

[1] www.un.org/disarmament.

military exercises and has voluntarily notified exercises below threshold in line with its commitments under the Vienna Document.

Armenia is concerned about systematic violations of the conventional arms control regime by Azerbaijan, which further endangers the volatile security environment of the region.

The massive and destabilizing accumulation of heavy weaponry and unnotified large-scale military exercises by Azerbaijan in contradiction with its legal obligations and political commitments raise serious security concerns and pose a direct threat to the whole region.

As of 1 January 2018, according to the official information provided by Azerbaijan, it significantly exceeds its ceilings in four of five categories of major conventional arms established by the Treaty, namely, in battle tanks (524, permitted ceiling is 220), armoured combat vehicles (387, permitted ceiling is 220), artillery (961, permitted ceiling is 285) and attack helicopters (57, permitted ceiling is 50).

A large portion of the armed forces of Azerbaijan is excluded from any verification activities in violation of the Treaty provisions, which puts into question the credibility of the data provided by Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan does not allow inspections of 10 of the 29 brigades of its armed forces. Inspections of 5 other brigades, located in Nakhijevan Autonomous Republic, are allowed under the precondition of notifying the intention to inspect 10 days in advance, which undermines efficiency of inspections and turns the territory of Nakhijevan into a grey zone. This provides Azerbaijan with the possibility to concentrate a large amount of unverifiable forces and military equipment near the State borders of Armenia and along the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh.

The violations of the Treaty and the OSCE confidence- and security-building measures have been accompanied by military provocations and violations of the ceasefire regime, established by trilateral ceasefire agreements of 1994 and 1995, bellicose rhetoric and the promotion of anti-Armenian hatred by the high-ranking officials of Azerbaijan. The highest leadership of Azerbaijan openly claims almost the entire territory of Armenia, including its capital. Uncontrolled military build-up by Azerbaijan and hostile policy towards Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh culminated in April 2016 with a large-scale military offensive unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh. It resulted in grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including atrocities and war crimes targeting civilian populations and military personnel.

Despite the incompliance of Azerbaijan to its obligations, which has negative security implications on the region and undermines the conventional arms control regime, Armenia will continue to strictly adhere to its international obligations and commitments in the sphere of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures.

Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]
[14 May 2018]

Brunei Darussalam has pledged its commitment to supporting international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and confidence-building measures towards the achievement of lasting global peace, security and stability.

Brunei Darussalam is not a party to international agreements to curb the proliferation of illicit firearms, nor has it signed or ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and

Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Firearms Protocol) or the Arms Trade Treaty. However, Brunei Darussalam has always remained concerned about the rise in the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. It is also the country's policy to remain fully supportive of any efforts towards regional disarmament. That includes supporting conventional arms control initiatives as a measure to promote regional and international peace and security and supporting calls at the multilateral level, through information-sharing- and capacity-building, to prevent the diversion of conventional weapons to the illicit market and unwarranted parties.

Brunei Darussalam continues to prohibit and restrict the manufacture, import and export of all firearms, parts and ammunition by type. Possession of any firearms by civilians is prohibited, and any offences related to their possession or unlawful use will result in serious penalties.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[8 May 2018]

Conventional arms control should be governed not only at the regional and subregional levels, but also at the global level, by the norms and principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, it should be carried out in strict respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, and the fulfilment in good faith of commitments assumed under international instruments.

The State should be the primary actor in the implementation of measures for control of its weapons. This is the most effective way of ensuring that the situation, interests, needs and characteristics of each country and region are taken into account. Respect for and recognition of such measures are essential for conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels.

It is the prerogative of each State to determine what is and is not considered excess arms and whether to request assistance for the establishment and implementation of control measures. Initiatives for cooperation and assistance in this area are important, not only at the regional and subregional levels, but also at the global level. Moreover, controls should include weapons of mass destruction, which have much more devastating effects.

Under decree law No. 262 of 12 November 2008 on arms and ammunition, activities relating to conventional weapons are largely the responsibility of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior. Both Ministries have the requisite internal regulations and mechanisms for rigorous and periodic control of stocks of these weapons and follow strict procedures to ensure the security of arsenals. The involvement of individuals in the sale and/or purchase of such weapons is not permitted in the national territory.

As a State party to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, Cuba has submitted its national reports on compliance, which describe the many control mechanisms available to the Cuban authorities to ensure the security of their weapons.

Cuban efforts for strict control of conventional weapons are part of the deep-seated national commitment to the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

El Salvador has established as one of its priorities the promotion and strengthening of security at the national, regional and international levels, and is taking a comprehensive approach as part of a policy of justice, security and public harmony, based on full respect for and guarantee of human rights, with the purpose of controlling and eradicating illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, in view of their close connection with various criminal activities such as terrorism, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, and the activities of youth gangs or *maras*, among other types of crime which seriously endanger the fundamental rights of the people and also affect the well-being of society, economic and social development, and the right of our peoples to live in peace.

The Government of El Salvador is making enormous efforts, together with countries of the region, particularly the countries of the Central American Integration System, to ensure security both in Salvadoran territory, and in the Central American region, and to strengthen arms control in order to counter illicit trafficking in and irresponsible use of firearms in a comprehensive and effective manner, through mutual cooperation in criminal investigations, strengthening of the systems for registration and control of firearms, exchange of information for the monitoring of arms trafficking, training, technological provision and supply, as well as improved coordination, standardization and implementation of international, regional and national instruments concerning firearms.

In this regard, El Salvador relies on the various international instruments for control of trafficking in conventional weapons such as the Arms Trade Treaty, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, among others, as effective means to support our efforts in strengthening control of conventional weapons, by promoting joint cooperation with other countries in order to build synergies and contribute to the reduction of armed violence at the national, regional and global levels.

The Government of El Salvador has undertaken the establishment of a national council for public security and harmony and the formulation of the Safe El Salvador plan, which were the outcome of a process of broad public consultations and participation. The Safe El Salvador plan, which enjoys broad support among Salvadoran society, provides for the implementation of multiple priority actions in the short, medium and long term to address violence and crime and guarantee access to justice and the care and protection of victims, with a special focus on prevention and in full respect for the human rights of the affected population.

For El Salvador, it is of vital importance to continue participating in all regional or multilateral discussions, forums or negotiations at which this topic is taken up, with a view to the strengthening and effective implementation of the main international instruments and initiatives in the area of arms control.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[8 May 2018]

The army leadership suggests refraining from setting forth limitations or restrictions on conventional weapons in the army for reasons of Lebanese national security (the state of war with the Israeli enemy). It notes the following principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control:

- The authoritative resolutions adopted by the United Nations should be duly complied with, and the Charter should be respected.
- The resolution of international disputes, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict, must be given priority.
- States are equal in terms of sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is important to prevent an arms race and build confidence.
- Agreement should be reached on a clear and comprehensive definition of conventional arms.
- All concerned regional States should remain compliant with a view to precluding any repetition of the double standards applied in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. States should be held accountable in the event of non-compliance.
- The manufacture and transfer of arms should be controlled, and the smuggling of and illicit trafficking in arms should be suppressed in order to ensure that they do not fall into the hands of terrorists.
- Legislation should be enacted at the regional and international levels in order to limit the proliferation of such weapons, while allowing for the possibility of their individual or collective use to resist occupation or defend territory.
- Multilateralism should be strengthened as a means of furthering negotiation on arms regulation and disarmament.
- The technological superiority of several States, notably in the area of "smart" weapons and munitions, might allow them to circumvent international law.

Madagascar

[Original: French]
[15 May 2018]

Strengthening of control of manufacture, trade, circulation, transfer, possession and use, in accordance with the Convention of the Economic Community of West African States on small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and other related materials, the Protocol on the control of firearms, ammunition and other materials of the Southern African Development Community and the Central African Convention for the control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition, parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair or assembly.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

Article 165 of the Constitution of Peru stipulates that the primary role of the armed forces is to guarantee the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of

the Republic, and article 171 provides for the participation of the armed forces in the country's economic and social development and in civil defence, in accordance with the law.

Pursuant to that legal framework, in order to fulfil their mission, the armed forces and the procurement agency for the armed forces acquire a certain number of conventional weapons to replenish existing stocks of weapons and for counterterrorist activities in the Valles de los Ríos, Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro area.

In recent years, the naval forces of Peru have been involved in the construction and acquisition of multipurpose, oceanographic and maritime patrol vessels, and also aircraft and *Plataformas Itinerantes de Accion Social* [ships for providing itinerant social services] which are designed for logistical support, scientific activities, maritime patrols, social service activities in the Amazon area and disaster preparedness.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Portugal, in compliance with the new directive on the control of the acquisition and possession of firearms, Directive (EU) 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017, has initiated a project to transpose into national law the new European Community rules, new rules for firearms collectors and the issue of intermediaries. On the other hand, the new directive presupposes tighter rules for museums with firearms.

Also, with regard to European regulations, Portugal is actively involved in different working groups, with a view to creating a set of rules at the European Union level, so that it is increasingly safe to be able to stop acquisition of a firearm by or transfer of a firearm to a particular country or transfer of a firearm from one European Union country to another.

This year, the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/337 of 5 March 2018 amending Regulation (EU) 2015/2403 laying down common guidelines on decommissioning standards and techniques was irreversible in the destruction of decommissioned firearms. Other working groups at the European Union level are currently under way to implement new rules for the marking of firearms in order to make these weapons safer at the level of their control.

A working group is also under way to exchange and share information on transfers of firearms and refusals to grant arms licenses towards a better understanding in European Union countries with regard to refusals of the granting of licences.

All these situations aim to achieve a very significant improvement in the control of arms and ammunition in the national territory, according to best practices at the European Union level.

A project on the implementation of a weapons and ammunition test bank is also under way and will be ready by 2019 It will increase the quality and control of weapons introduced into Portugal; Portugal recommends this test bench in terms of getting certification under the Permanent International Commission for the Proof of Small Arms. Arms control efforts have been one of the cornerstones of the international community security environment. Portugal shares international community' concerns about the growing tendencies on the dissemination of conventional arms, and, bearing in mind the historical testimonies on this subject, Portugal considers that non-proliferation and disarmament are matters of grave importance in the promotion of peace and security in a global context and,

specifically, in regional and subregional contexts, and supports the implementation of various confidence- and security-building measures, which include the Vienna Document, the Treaty on Open Skies and the humanitarian demining goals of the Ottawa Convention.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[8 May 2018]

Ukraine recognizes the importance of conventional arms control, including at the regional and subregional levels and, accordingly, welcomes all relevant measures in this field.

This commitment has been reinforced by Russia's uncivilized behaviour, which has maliciously put conventional arms control in Europe into a state of impasse, thus ensuring an erosion of trust and confidence in the military field, challenging the very essence of the architecture of contemporary European security as well as verifiable security- and confidence-building embodied in conventional arms control and related confidence- and security-building measures.

Ukraine is a long-term, responsible participant in pan-European and complementary bilateral conventional arms control and related confidence-building instruments, such as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Treaty on Open Skies and the Vienna Document of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on confidence- and security-building measures. Ukraine is also a participant in bilateral agreements on confidence- and security-building measures with neighbouring Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Belarus and Romania. Notwithstanding the increase in the burden on Ukraine's armed forces caused by Russia's aggression, Ukraine continues to comply with its obligations under the above-mentioned international instruments.

The case of Ukraine as a victim of Russia's aggression is a reminder of the urgent need to revitalize and improve conventional arms control in order to strengthen its capability to better address the existing security challenges in the areas of application.

Ukraine's case also compels a periodic assessment of the relevance, strengths and weaknesses of conventional arms control tools used by participating States, without waiting for acts of aggression.

Ukraine considers that conventional arms control should, first, deal with the traditional categories of conventional armaments with a view to spreading control over new categories; have as many participants as possible and cover as large an area as possible; be transparent to the maximum extent possible through information exchange and verification intrusiveness; preferably be legally binding; be free from ambiguities in interpretation; be periodically evaluated by parties for viability, effectiveness and the possibility of further enhancement and modernization; be free from spheres of influence as well as such things as a "veto" vote, especially when it comes to aggression. The above-mentioned approaches may enable interested parties to make progress in moving closer to peace and security throughout the area of application of confidence- and security-building measures in the field of conventional arms.

United Nations A/73/115

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2018
English
Original: English/French/Spanish

Seventy-third session
Item 99 (gg) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Replies received from Governments	2
	Argentina	2
	Australia	7
	Cuba	12
	Ecuador	12
	Honduras	13
	Morocco	14
	Philippines	14
	Ukraine	15
III.	Replies received from the United Nations system	15
	Office for Disarmament Affairs	15
	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	20
IV.	Replies received from other international organizations	21
	European Union	21

* A/73/50.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 71/56, entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control", urged Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it related to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict.

2. The General Assembly welcomed the continuing efforts of the United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to accord high priority to the issue of women and peace and security, and in that regard noted the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting the implementation of all resolutions related to women in the context of peace and security.

3. The General Assembly also urged Member States to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels.

4. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and to report to the Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of resolution 71/56. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

5. In that connection, a note verbale was sent to all Member States seeking their views on the subject. A memorandum dated 30 January 2018 was also dispatched to relevant United Nations system entities. Member States, relevant United Nations system entities and other international organizations were invited to provide inputs. The replies received are contained in sections II, III and IV of the present report. Any views received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs[1] in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

In the Ministry of Defence, the National Directorate of the Controller of Defence Equipment is responsible for the topic of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms transparency and control.

As regards gender-related aspects of this topic, the Directorate has reported the following:

- Half of its staff are women and their numbers are increasing every year. The percentage currently remains stable.
- Activities relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and control of arms and weapons of mass destruction are continually monitored by working groups

[1] www.un.org/disarmament/topics/gender.

composed of staff of the National Directorate, of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces and of the Scientific and Technical Defence Research Institute.

This monitoring consists of analysis of the documents produced under the various disarmament conventions and drafting of applicable conclusions, proposals and recommendations, attendance at the monthly meetings (eight each year) held by the working groups on the various topics and participation in relevant international conferences.

- The female staff of the Directorate participate actively in courses, seminars, lectures and other training offered at the Military Institutes and at the National Defence Faculty.
- Women who are highly trained and specialize in the issues represent the Ministry of Defence in international forums dealing with the topic.
- As part of its responsibilities, the National Directorate carefully monitors the obligations of the Argentine Republic under the various international systems of disarmament and arms control and continues to ensure that women participate in all tasks, with a view to creating a critical mass of specialists.
- A female staff member of the National Directorate is responsible for coordinating the activities of the National Commission for the Monitoring of Sensitive Exports and Exports of War Material (Decree 603/92). The Commission monitors these exports in order to ensure compliance with Argentina's international commitments concerning disarmament and non-proliferation.

Coordination of gender policies and non-discrimination in the Ministry of Security

On 2 March 2018, Decree No. 174/2018 established, within the General Coordination Unit of the Ministry of Security, a Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination. Its role is to find ways of ensuring that the police and security forces are effectively enforcing the National Act on Comprehensive Protection to Prevent, Punish and Eliminate Violence against Women (Act No. 26.485). This role includes action to prevent and deal with cases of gender-based and family violence, disciplinary measures against the perpetrators of this type of violence, as well as protection and compensation of victims of such behaviour within the police and security forces and gender mainstreaming in training and awareness-raising as well as in analysing patterns of this crime in its various manifestations.

Gender training programmes for the security forces

As part of their training, staff of the police and security forces receive ongoing instruction in gender issues. A resolution of the Minister of Security (a woman) established a working group on skills training that reports jointly to the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination and to the National Directorate for Training of the Under-Secretariat for Planning and Training in the Ministry of Security. Various methodologies and institutional facilities are used to ensure dissemination and ownership of policies for the prevention of gender-based violence.

This approach is based on multi-agency involvement and gender mainstreaming in all aspects of institutional life (symbolic, normative and practical). Work has thus been spread among multiple institutions either within the Ministry of Security, where all staff participate in virtual courses, or through on-site instruction at agencies all over the country.

For example, the following courses on gender are offered to the staff of the federal forces and to the provincial police involved in the topic:

(a) Early detection of human trafficking at border crossings: Virtual training is designed for staff of the Argentine National Gendarmerie, the Argentine Naval Prefecture and the Airport Security Police, because these are the forces working at Argentine border crossings. The goal of this training is to enhance the capacity of the staff responsible for migration controls and identification of potential cases of human trafficking and early detection of possible victims and their traffickers. The staff are provided with standardized criteria and guidelines.

(b) Treatment of complaints for early detection of human trafficking situations. Human trafficking is one of the major activities of transnational organized crime and the complaints are not always categorized as human trafficking. In this case, the police may be dealing with possible situations of trafficking with other legal classifications. It is crucial to be able to provide correct assistance to possible victims; this is why the training describes criteria and provides guidelines applicable to this type of crime.

(c) Federal criteria for appropriate intervention in cases of domestic violence. The goal is to cultivate a sensitive approach to domestic violence and to provide an efficient response in situations in which the police and security forces are required to intervene in a case of this type. The training equips participants so that they can recognize gender-based violence in family relations, familiarize themselves with intervention guidelines, understand the legal and conceptual aspects, promote access to justice for female victims, foster institutional coordination, enforce judicial measures and ensure correct decision-making in accordance with judicial requirements. This ensures that citizens, and particularly female victims of gender-based violence, will receive appropriate police assistance with the tools needed to guarantee their safety.

Each of the police and security forces has a Comprehensive Gender Centre providing training at locations throughout the country on gender, domestic violence, labour relations from a gender viewpoint and sexual harassment. These Centres raise staff awareness and make known their availability to receive complaints, make presentations and provide advice to all workers (especially the most junior among them).

The Ministry of Security has also decided that no member of the police and security forces may be promoted without having received gender training. This will ensure that gender is mainstreamed in each member's training by the end of 2018.

Gender policies within the Police and security forces

a. Treatment of complaints

The Coordination Unit has decided to use the term "internal complaints" to describe complaints among staff within the police and security forces — in other words, when both the complainant and the accused are members of any of the four federal police and security forces and the alleged offence occurred at or affected the workplace, excluding offences described in article 6 (a) of Act No. 26.485 (domestic or family violence). In this task, there is coordination with the Comprehensive Gender Centres of each of the federal police and security forces.

Most complaints take a long time to process. This is because, after the complaint has been submitted (via the Ministry's 134 hot line, by email, through the media or by other means), internal investigations are conducted into the employment status of the accused as well as the existence of other complaints made to the Comprehensive Gender Centres or the Ministry.

Following the internal investigations, formal memoranda are prepared requesting information and adoption of measures. The time required will depend on the content of the complaint, since not everything reported will in fact constitute behaviour described in Act No. 26.485. Similarly, not all behaviour constitutes a crime, although it may be "categorized" as a breach of the codes of conduct of each of the Federal Forces. In particular, situations involving sexual harassment must be dealt with individually, depending on the nature of the complaint and the grade and seniority of the persons involved, since in many jurisdictions this is currently considered to be an infraction or an unlawful act but not a crime.

b. Leave for gender-based violence

Resolution No. 443-E/2017, which came into force on 18 May 2017, allows special leave for gender-based violence to be granted, with full pay, to women in the police and security forces who are experiencing or have experienced any form of gender-based violence and need time off from work for that reason. This special leave may also be granted to male or female cadets, trainees and students at or candidates for the Training/Recruitment Institutes.

The special leave must be requested by the victim and approved by the interdisciplinary team in the Comprehensive Gender Centre of the institution to which the victim belongs. Once it takes effect, the Centre must immediately notify the head of the unit in where the victim works, specifying the duration of the leave. Leave shall be granted for three working days and may be extended by decision of the Comprehensive Gender Centre or the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination.

The Resolution also designates a specific forum for gender-based research in all areas of internal affairs of each of the federal police and security forces to conduct all investigations involving the granting of special leave for gender-based violence.

Prevention of domestic violence

In response to reports of cases of domestic violence made by staff of the four federal police and security forces via the 134 hot line for complaints to the Ministry of Security, this Coordination Unit transmits these complaints to the courts if a crime has been committed or in cases where the complainant using the hot line decides to bring the case before the courts, leaving the magistrate to decide whether to prosecute.

The Unit then brings the situation to the attention of the police and security force to which the complainant belongs.

Prevention of the use of weapons

Resolution 1515/2012 of the Ministry of Security specifies that, in the case of complaints of gender-based and/or domestic violence involving a member of the federal police and security forces and if the courts have issued a protective order (to protect the complainant), the carrying of a service weapon must immediately be restricted. The goal is to prevent the weapon from being taken into the family home in which violent situations exist.

In addition, Resolution 299/2013 allows the Ministry of Security to consult the National Agency for Controlled Materials regarding the carrying of a civilian weapon by the accused, so that the courts are aware of its existence and may, if necessary, search the domicile in question and confiscate the weapon.

The two Resolutions apply simultaneously and the federal forces are immediately ordered to constitute a Medical Examination Board to evaluate whether

the accused should be allowed to carry the weapon and to assess that person's mental and physical condition.

Lifting of the restriction on carrying a weapon

Once the protective order has expired, or the court case has been dismissed, the possibility of lifting the restriction on carrying a weapon is evaluated and a Medical Examination Board is again constituted. If found to be fit for service and able to carry a weapon, prior to the lifting of the restriction the accused must attend the Psycho-Socio-Educational Programme created and implemented by the Coordination Unit since 2018. Once these requirements have been met, steps are taken to restore the service weapon.

In 2017, before it had its own Psycho-Socio-Educational Programme and in order to comply with Resolution 1515/2012, the Coordination Unit on Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination arranged with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to hold an on-site workshop entitled "Dialogues on Gender and Culture", as a collaborative effort to assist with reinsertion in the federal forces of men with violent behaviour covered by Resolution 1515/2012.

Recognizing the need for a programme similar to that workshop, in 2018 the Coordination Unit created the "Healthy Ties" Psycho-Socio-Educational Programme. Attendance is mandatory, prior to lifting of the restrictive measure.

The goal of the Programme is to reach all members of the federal forces covered by Resolution 1515/12. In addition, it is planned to extend the Programme to persons accused of acts of violence within the force (workplace violence).

The Programme focuses on psycho-socio-educational rehabilitation, increasing awareness of topics relating to gender-based and/or domestic violence and reinsertion into a force whose main function is to protect public order and the safety of persons. The Programme consists of 12 meetings (four hours a week or a total of 48 hours) and is divided into three segments: (1) Knowledge; (2) Reflection; and (3) Relevance.

Femicide

The Guidelines for police and security forces for the on-site investigation of femicides were adopted by the Security Ministry of the Argentine Republic in Resolution 1278-E/2017 of 24 November 2017.

This document was produced by two working groups convened by the Ministry's Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination, which involved specialized staff from the four federal police and security forces and persons dealing with the topic in the civil service, the judiciary, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and civil society organizations.

The focus was on rethinking and revision of the Guidelines for the federal police and security forces for on-site investigation of femicides, adopted in 2013 by Resolution 428/2013 implemented from that time until January 2016 in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

The participants were given the task of reviewing that working instrument in the light of four years of implementation, court decisions and the needs of the judiciary and public prosecutors when investigating violent deaths of women, with the goal of improving police intervention in such cases.

Following these discussions, the intervention instructions were updated to reflect the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide) developed by the Regional Office for

Central America of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN-Women Americas and Caribbean Regional Office.

With the goal of federalizing this police intervention instrument, in March 2018 the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination submitted Guidelines for the consideration of the provincial authorities in the context of the Internal Security Council in a convention of accession by which the provinces of Chaco, Entre Ríos, Jujuy, La Pampa, Misiones, San Juan, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Tierra del Fuego and Tucumán pledged to create the necessary mechanisms to incorporate the provisions of the Guidelines in police procedures for cases of violent killings of women. This measure will also be accompanied by material and on-site training organized by the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination.

These actions are part of the Federal Plan of the Ministry of Security for the Identification of Causes of Femicide, designed to provide quantitative and qualitative data on femicides that occur in the Argentine Republic in each of the 24 jurisdictions and to identify their causes. These include socio-economic variables and features of the public security system and their impact on the occurrence of events of this kind in Argentina. The findings will help us to design programmes to reduce femicides in our country.

In this connection, the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination is responsible for training the staff of the agencies and expert scientific offices of each of the federal and provincial police and security forces as well as the prevention officers, with the goal of imposing a gender perspective when approaching the crime scene in cases of violent killings of women and in order to comply with court injunctions at all stages of the investigation.

Human trafficking

In 2008, the Ministry of Security established special units in each of the federal Security Forces to prevent and investigate the crime of human trafficking: in the Human Trafficking Division of the Argentine Federal Police; in the Anti-Human Trafficking Department of the Argentine National Gendarmerie; in the Human Trafficking Investigation Department of the Argentine Naval Prefecture; and in the Operational Unit of the Airport Security Police for the Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Related Crimes.

The Integrated Information System on the Crime of Human Trafficking was also created in this Ministry to compile quantitative and qualitative data on each of the activities (investigations or searches) conducted by federal forces in connection with the possible commission of human trafficking and complex crime.

Australia

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Australia welcomes the opportunity to share our views on "ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control" and the implementation of resolution 71/56. Australia strongly supports the promotion of the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Gender-inclusive responses to global and regional challenges are necessary to support increased stability, security and prosperity. Australia promotes the need for forums that are dynamic and creative, focused on solving real-world problems and building

trust, where women and men contribute equally, to making our world more secure and stable.[2]

Further, linking resolution 71/56 to related agendas facilitates the effective implementation of the objectives outlined in that resolution. We welcome links made in resolution 71/56 to the women and peace and security agenda, which recognizes the role of women, including as leaders and mediators in conflict prevention, conflict responses and peace processes, and to the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the promotion of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Below we outline the steps Australia has taken to implement resolution 71/56, followed by ways and means to promote women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control further.

Steps taken by Australia to implement resolution 71/56

Australia works to pursue the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men as an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security. The below list of practical steps taken by Australia to implement aspects of resolution 71/56 is limited to a few specific examples. It is not an exhaustive list nor does it address all of the operative paragraphs of that resolution.

Steps taken related to paragraph 1: "Urges Member States ... to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict"

Australia is committed to women's full and equal participation in the security sector.

(a) Promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control sits within the core of Australia's foreign policy. Australia's 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper states that "Australia's foreign policy pursues the empowerment of women as a top priority".[3] Our gender equality and women's empowerment strategy, which guides our work on gender equality, has established as one of its three priority areas the enhancement of women's voice in decision-making, leadership and peacebuilding.[4] Research has demonstrated that, where women are included in peace processes, the probability of peace agreements being reached and then lasting improves. Our National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2018 (which has been extended to mid-2019), includes the following ways Australia, through a whole-of-government approach, is promoting the role of women in the security sector:

- By integrating a gender perspective into the policies of Australia on peace and security
- By embedding the women and peace and security agenda in the Government of Australia and ensuring that women have opportunities to participate in decision-making positions

[2] Statement by Australia to the Conference on Disarmament on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March 2018).

[3] Government of Australia, 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper (2017), p. 93.

[4] Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy* (February 2016), p. 6.

- By promoting the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda internationally, including through the United Nations and other multilateral forums[5]

(b) Australia has ratified and currently implements a number of international treaties and United Nations programmes on arms control and disarmament that actively promote women's participation, including the Arms Trade Treaty, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction:

- For example, through the International Development Fund, a flexible small-grants programme run by the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Australia supported a delegation of young women from different geographic regions to participate in the 16th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction as members of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines delegation in December 2017

(c) Australia uses United Nations and other international forums to engage and embed language that promotes and advocates gender perspectives on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control:

- For example, on 8 March 2018, International Women's Day, Australia called for the Conference on Disarmament to show more leadership with regard to gender equality
- On the margins of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2018, Australia co-hosted, with the Netherlands, Sweden and Canada, a side event on "Women in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation of Treaty" on 25 April 2018
  - At this event, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, promoted women as "powerful agents for peace and progress" and said she was encouraged by the increasing interest in recent years on the part of Member States in incorporating gender considerations into nuclear non-proliferation discussions despite only slight improvement in female participation in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference[6]
- During the general debate of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the general statement on behalf of the Vienna Group of Ten, which includes Australia, emphasized the importance of promoting the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men in nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.[7] In its statement to cluster

[5] Government of Australia, Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2018, table 1.

[6] Remarks by High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu at the "Women in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" event hosted by the Permanent Missions of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

[7] Statement delivered by Australia on behalf of the Vienna Group of Ten at the general debate of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva from 23 April to 4 May 2018.

III on strengthening the Treaty review process, Australia indicated that achieving gender parity was not just good policy but also had the potential to enhance the capability and effectiveness of Treaty processes and their outcomes[8]

- On 26 October 2017, during a meeting of the First Committee of the General Assembly, Australia joined a statement made by Canada on behalf of a group of States highlighting the importance of increasing the representation and participation of women in disarmament machinery and consideration of the gender dimensions of disarmament issues[9]

- On 14 October 2017 at a meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Australia presented its perspectives on implementing Security Council 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, which built on the topic Australia chose for the OSCE conference with Asian partners that it hosted in 2013 on improving security for women and girls.[10]

Steps taken related to paragraph 5: "Urges Member States to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels"

Steps taken related to paragraph 6: "Calls upon all States to empower women, including through capacity-building efforts, as appropriate, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts"

(a) Australia is proud to have a number of women represent Australia, at home and abroad, on issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Through our role as co-chair of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear, which comprises 23 states, we work in consultation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to identify practical initiatives to increase the representation of women in the secretariat of IAEA:

- Australia is currently looking at practical and concrete ways to support the gender equality objectives of IAEA and work with the agency's focal point network. This includes capacity-building efforts that emphasize and evaluate the role played by focal points to support an inclusive culture

(b) Australia was equally proud to chair the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 2018 and be the second consecutive female Chair of the Commission, taking over from Argentina. In the same manner as Argentina, we also achieved gender parity with the two working group chairs of the Commission (Jamaica and Belgium);

(c) Australia is a leading donor to the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, in which donors have agreed on selection criteria whereby applicants need to demonstrate that their proposals have taken gender considerations into account;

(d) Australia supports the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at all levels and has a history of sending female

[8] Statement by Australia to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, "Statement for cluster III (strengthening the NPT review process)".

[9] Statement by Canada delivered on behalf of a group of States to the First Committee of the General Assembly entitled "Statement on gender and the disarmament machinery, cluster 7" (New York, 26 October 2017).

[10] Statement by Australia at the Meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Asian Contact Group on "Implementing Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security: Australian perspectives" (14 October 2016).

representation to participate in the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, including in 2018.

"Calls upon all States to develop appropriate and effective national risk assessment criteria to facilitate the prevention of the use of arms to commit violence against women and children" (paragraph 8)

(a) The risk assessment of Australia for the export of arms is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure the integration of gender analysis, in compliance with and in implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty;

(b) In 2017, as a joint initiative with civil society, Australia reviewed the link between the Arms Trade Treaty and gender perspectives, highlighted in the publication "Reinvigorating the narrative: the broader benefits to the Arms Trade Treaty";[11]

(c) In 2016, Australia sponsored the production by Handicap International (now Humanity & Inclusion) of the publication "Guidance on an integrated approach to victim assistance", which is aimed at promoting non-discriminatory and sustainable victim assistance efforts under disarmament conventions on cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive remnants of war. The Guidance highlights the need for an age- and gender-sensitive approach to victim assistance, to ensure that survivors of all ages and genders are included among the beneficiaries of both specific victim assistance and broader development assistance efforts.

Further means to promote women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

Globally, great strides are being made towards gender equality and women's empowerment, but women continue to be underrepresented at the top: in positions of leadership, representation and influence. We will not achieve gender equality while women are absent from leadership.

Australia offers some further practical suggestions to promote women's participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control:

- Member States can make an effort to be better informed of the gender dimensions of the issues on which they work and apply a gender lens to every aspect of international security
- Member States can demonstrate leadership by backing diversity in decision-making positions, both in their own government structures and in international organizations
- Women representing Member States can act as mentors to future colleagues and provide an opportunity to hear from our experienced colleagues
- Member States can facilitate women contributing more actively to forums on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including by ensuring that delegations are gender diverse and by supporting the participation of women from all levels and backgrounds in delegations
- When considering experts and participation on panels, ensure that panels are gender diverse and seek out qualified women to enrich perspectives

[11] Centre for Armed Violence Reduction, "Reinvigorating the narrative: the broader benefits to the Arms Trade Treaty" (2017).

- Use social media and other public platforms to recognize, promote and celebrate the contribution of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control as a way to counter stereotypes
- Encourage the collation and presentation of sex-disaggregated data where possible on women's participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and as a way of measuring progress going forward.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[5 April 2018]

Cuba is aware of the importance of increasing the participation of women at all levels of decision-making, in both national and international institutions, for the formulation of policies on issues relating to the promotion of international peace and security.

We support the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as its appeal to ensure peace for the advancement of women and its recognition of the role of women in promoting peace and general and complete disarmament under strict, effective and efficient international control.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are increasingly important. In this connection, it is the responsibility of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council to provide effective monitoring of the international commitments made by the States Members of the United Nations to achieve that goal.

Cuba is committed to the promotion of complete equality of opportunity for women at all levels, including decision-making with regard to issues relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Cuba has had considerable success in promoting women's employment, education, health and participation in political and economic life, thanks to the public policies of the Cuban revolution in favour of the population in general and of women in particular.

The participation of Cuban women in the political life of the country is exemplified by the strong female presence in all the organs of the Cuban State and Government, including the armed forces. Following the elections held on 11 March 2018, the proportion of women in Parliament rose to 53.22 per cent. This is a record high, exceeding the targets set by the Beijing Platform for Action and making Cuba the country with the second largest female presence in the legislature.

Cuba reiterates its determination to continue working for the advancement and empowerment of women in all spheres of social life.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

The Constitution of Ecuador specifies that the Armed Forces are an institution that protects the rights, freedoms and guarantees of citizens. It also recognizes the right of persons to be free from any form of violence and the principles of gender equity and elimination of inequality and discrimination against women. In addition, it stipulates that the criteria of gender equity are the fundamental basis of the laws governing the rights and obligations of the members of the Armed Forces and the National Police. The 2017–2021 national development plan ("A Whole Life"), based

on a participatory approach with extensive national dialogue, mainstreams gender in its goals, policies and guidelines. Ecuador considers that policies geared to gender equality and empowerment of women are essential to the cause of peace.

The Ministry of Defence espouses the concept of defence as a public good, including a gender-based approach in the political defence agenda. In this connection, Ecuador has an instrument designed to contribute to the integration of women in the military: the Armed Forces Gender Policy. The policy is based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination against women and provides political and strategic guidance for the participation of women in the military, with equal rights and opportunities. It encourages the abandonment of cultural patterns that foster gender-based violence, incorporates this in military training and promotes educational programmes to prevent sexual violence, particularly in troop training. There is also a monitoring system to measure the impact of gender policies and a Gender Handbook of the Armed Forces of Ecuador that promotes human and gender rights to encourage the process of inclusion of female military personnel and provide instructions to be followed by members of the armed forces.

Ecuador believes that strengthening national arrangements strengthens international arrangements. It is essential to combat impunity in cases of sexual violence during conflicts, including its underlying causes. Ecuador is concerned about instances of gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict situations. In such cases, nobody should be beyond the reach of national and international justice. In this connection, States are encouraged to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Court of Justice.

Ecuador remains committed to support and to continue contributing to a genuine culture of peace and new forms of coexistence that promotes equal conditions and opportunities for women as well as their empowerment to participate in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Honduras

[Original: Spanish]
[24 April 2018]

Honduras recognizes the importance of the participation of women in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof, as well as of equal opportunity to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, as established in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In this connection, Honduran women are gradually being employed throughout the government machinery and the institutions that compose it such as the Armed Forces, where at the senior levels a total of 2,390 women are performing a variety of tasks and missions nationally and internationally.

However, we acknowledge the need to increase female representation not only in security and defence institutions but also at their decision-making levels and in negotiations on disarmament or other topics.

Programmes can be created at the institutional level to promote the development of Honduran women's managerial skills for decision-making, so as to foster their qualities of leadership, self-esteem and confidence, as well as the self-assurance that motivates women to take up challenges requiring decision-making in an important area such as disarmament, non-proliferation and effective arms control.

Morocco

[Original: French]
[8 May 2018]

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the determination of the Security Council and of the United Nations Secretary-General to deal with violations committed against women in periods of armed conflict and the progress made in involving women in peace-keeping operations.

Morocco condemns all violations of international law committed by the perpetrators of crimes against women in periods of armed conflict.

Morocco recalls that the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) gives international recognition to the role of women in peace and security.

Morocco suggests that efforts should be concentrated on far-reaching actions such as the consideration, through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, of the fate of women who, in conflict situations, are recruited against their will by armed factions and forced to bear arms.

Philippines

[Original: English]
[9 May 2018]

The Philippines, through its government agencies, namely the Department of National Defense and the Philippine National Police, welcomes the resolution, as it recognizes the importance of women in promoting international peace. A gender-sensitive approach on issues pertaining to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control may provide new perspectives on how issues may be addressed. The Department of National Defense is of the view that incorporating gender-based perspectives can potentially reshape how disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control are framed in discussions at both the national and international levels.

The Department, through the Armed Forces of the Philippines, is also taking steps in support of the active participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The Armed Forces encourages the participation of women from its ranks in training endeavours and conferences on such issues in the national and international arena. Locally, women from the military were heavily involved in support operations and rehabilitation programmes during and after the Marawi crisis. At the international level, the Armed Forces also encourages the participation of women in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The Philippine National Police also supports the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/56. The Philippines is compliant with respect to paragraph 5 of the resolution regarding "effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament" at the local, national and subregional levels. Women are involved in the Mindanao Peace Process, which includes disarmament of belligerent Muslim groups. Republic Act No. 8551[12] "prioritizes women for recruitment"[13] and promotes the role of women in law enforcement, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, and public safety. The Act also establishes a women's desk in all police stations throughout the country to administer and attend to cases involving crimes against chastity, sexual harassment and abuses committed against women and their children and other similar offences.[14] With this provision, various issues and concerns confronting women and

[12] Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998.
[13] Section 58, Prioritization of Women for Recruitment.
[14] Section 57, Creation and Functions.

children caught in armed conflict are addressed by policewomen in the Philippine National Police.

The Philippine National Police recommends that Member States be encouraged to develop appropriate and effective programmes or mechanisms that will protect women who have participated in the implementation of disarmament-related matters at the local, national, subregional and regional levels. Local government officials are also encouraged to be involved in this endeavour. Tapping the media may also be enhanced to solicit support from the general public and promote the pivotal role of women in capacity-building and their efforts to investigate and prosecute firearms trafficking.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Pursuant to Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1834 of 27 December 2006, on approval of the State programme for ensuring gender equality in Ukrainian society, in order to implement the principle of equal rights and opportunities for men and women, relevant state bodies of Ukraine strictly adhere to equal distribution when making appointments to the civil service.

As of today, the gender balance of the office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine is the following: women — 48.9% and men — 51 per cent.

More than 5,000 women do military service in the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, 90 per cent of whom serve in the units of the State border control.

All women working in relevant State institutions actively participate in diverse training courses, seminars and conferences on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, which are held at both the national and international levels.

For instance, the course on democratic civil control over the security sector, which includes lectures on gender policy in the field of security and defence, is provided at the National Academy of the Security Service of Ukraine.

III. Replies received from the United Nations system

Office for Disarmament Affairs

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

General observations

Since the last report on this topic, gender perspectives have become increasingly central to the discussions of Member States on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation issues. As a cross-cutting issue, gender considerations were raised in a number of disarmament bodies in a variety of contexts, including a focus on enhancing women's participation in disarmament forums, the gendered impacts of weapons and the nexus between effective arms control and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goal 5 on gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence. Member States also demonstrated a renewed emphasis in 2016 and 2017 on gender considerations with regard to weapons of mass destruction.

Issues related to women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control were addressed in a variety of multilateral forums, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament and the review processes of

disarmament instruments. The Secretary-General also addressed the relationship between gender, small arms and light weapons, and the women and peace and security and sustainable development agendas.

In the outcome document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/2, annex), held from 6 to 10 June 2016, States undertook: to take account of the differing impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys in policies and programmes designed to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; to promote the meaningful participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action; to encourage the collection of disaggregated data on gender and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; and to seriously consider increasing funding for policies and programmes that take account of the differing impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

In his 2016 report to the General Assembly on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (A/71/438), the Secretary-General noted that women's groups could be powerful actors in monitoring peace agreements if given the access and support to do so. In his 2017 report to the General Assembly on this issue and on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them (A/72/122), the Secretary-General highlighted progress achieved on gender-related issues in the outcome document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms. In addition, the Secretary-General underscored the acknowledgement of the link among the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in particular Goal 16.4, which relates to the reduction of illicit arms flows), the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument as one of the most significant achievements of the Meeting. States underlined that achieving Goal 16.4 would have positive effects on other development goals, including those concerning gender equality.

On 18 December 2017, the Security Council held an open debate on the issue of small arms and light weapons. The debate was informed by the biennial report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons (S/2017/1025). In that report, the Secretary-General noted the highly gendered nature of the causes and consequences of the use of weapons and recommended that the gendered nature of armed violence and conflict inform policy and programmatic responses. He has also recommended the mainstreaming of gender into efforts to control small arms to ensure more effective outcomes.

Regarding the women and peace and security agenda, in his 2016 report to the Security Council on women and peace and security (S/2016/822), the Secretary-General welcomed the increased commitment to addressing the destabilizing impact of the illicit transfer, accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, including its negative impact on women and girls. In his 2017 report to the Security Council on this issue (S/2017/861), the Secretary-General noted that the prior year had seen the continued use of heavy and unconventional weapons, including chemical and explosive weapons, in civilian areas, with grave impacts on civilian populations, particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic. He reiterated the importance of focusing on the gender-specific effects of armed violence and the promotion of the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control to better understand how illicit arms flows and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons fed a continuum of violence.

At the initiative of the Presidency of Pakistan, and building on the success of the first meeting in 2015, the Conference on Disarmament held its second plenary meeting on women and disarmament on 19 May 2016. Member States highlighted the importance of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, in providing frameworks for further promoting the relationship between gender and disarmament. States underlined the need to include women in decision-making processes and leadership positions to enhance the effectiveness of disarmament efforts. States also noted the different impacts of armed conflict, including the use of nuclear weapons, on women and men.

Since 2010, a focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons has brought renewed impetus to disarmament efforts. The groundswell of support for the humanitarian initiative has contributed to increased attention being paid to integrating cross-cutting issues, such as gender, public health and the environment, into multilateral processes in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

During the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, States parties used the forum to express support for the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament, including its relationship to gender, at each of the preparatory meetings held in 2017 and 2018. Many States supported the call to ensure that women and men were equally represented in Treaty discussions to enhance the capability and effectiveness of Treaty processes and their outcomes. The disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women was also noted. On the margins of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the Permanent Missions of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva hosted a side event on "Women in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" on 25 April 2018.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted on 7 July 2017, included a reference to the gendered impact of nuclear weapons, as well as to the strengthening of women's participation in nuclear disarmament. In its preamble, States parties highlighted that the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons had a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionizing radiation, recognized that the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men was an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security, and committed to supporting and strengthening the effective participation of women in nuclear disarmament. In addition, article 6 of the Treaty commits States parties to adequately providing age- and gender-sensitive victim assistance.

Several States also raised gender considerations in their statements at the seventieth and seventy-first sessions of the General Assembly during the meetings of the First Committee. In both sessions, States emphasized the need to make greater progress on mainstreaming gender perspectives in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation policies and programmes to ensure the participation of women in decision-making processes. During the seventieth session, the Permanent Mission of Ireland, in conjunction with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, held a side event on the topic of gender and nuclear weapons. The event was informed by the joint study by the Institute and the International Law and Policy Institute on "Gender, development and nuclear weapons: shared goals, shared concerns". The study argued that a gendered impact was useful in understanding the impact of, discourse on and the actors dealing with nuclear weapons. It found that nuclear weapon detonations affected women and men differently, including biologically, that applying a gender lens to the discourse on nuclear weapons challenged the established pattern of power relations and that women continued to be underrepresented in multilateral disarmament forums.

During the seventy-first session, Canada delivered a joint statement on behalf of 43 States on the participation of women in disarmament deliberations, characterizing the approach of the disarmament machinery to gender representation and gender perspectives as tepid, highlighting the gendered impacts of various weapons and calling for a comprehensive approach to including gender perspectives in First Committee resolutions and other disarmament instruments.

On 5 December 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/55 on the ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world, a follow up resolution to resolution 70/50, adopted in 2015. In resolution 71/55, the Assembly again declared that greater attention must be given to the impact of nuclear weapon detonation on women and the importance of their participation in discussions, decisions and actions on nuclear weapons.

Activities and initiatives of the Office for Disarmament Affairs

The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to address the link between gender and disarmament. In 2016, the Office updated its gender mainstreaming action plan[15] and, in consultation with UN-Women and the Department of Political Affairs Gender Unit, designed new mandatory training for its staff. In 2017, the Office adopted a gender parity strategy implementation plan to complement its Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan and to align the Office with the recommendations in the United Nations system-wide strategy on gender parity. In addition to creating pathways to reach numerical targets for professional staff at all levels, the plan calls for concrete measures to be adopted in three strategic focus areas: leadership and accountability; recruitment and progression; and creating an enabling environment. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has also been a vocal advocate for strengthening the effective participation of women in disarmament, including by publishing an op-ed[16] for young women on the need for greater participation in disarmament, as well as speaking at a side event on "Women in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty", hosted by the Permanent Missions of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.[17]

Throughout 2017 and 2018, the Office supported the Secretary-General in the development of a new initiative to revitalize global disarmament and renew efforts to accomplish "disarmament that saves lives". In May 2018, the Secretary-General launched his disarmament agenda, "Securing our Common Future", which prioritizes ensuring the equal, full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament. The Agenda also calls for States to incorporate gender perspectives in the development of national legislation and policies on disarmament and arms control.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs has also made an effort to answer the calls of Member States to improve capacity to consider the gendered impacts of weapons, as well as to collect gender-disaggregated data. Following the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms, and in response to the recommendations made in the outcome document of that Meeting, the Office revised the Programme of Action national reporting template to include for the first time two questions regarding gender considerations. Of 77 national reports received as at 31 March 2018 for the

[15] https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/update-gender-action-plan-2016.pdf.

[16] https://www.teenvogue.com/story/international-womens-day-2018-the-women-who-have-shaped-policies-on-nuclear-weapons.

[17] https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Izumi-Remarks-at-Women-in-the-Nuclear-Non-Proliferation-Treaty-event.pdf.

2016–2017 reporting period, 33 States affirmed that gender considerations are taken into account in policymaking, planning and implementation of the Programme of Action. Nineteen States provided specific examples or relevant criteria. Eleven States replied that they collected disaggregated data on gender and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. These voluntary national reports are made publicly available on the Office's website.[18]

The United Nations internal mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) adopted a new International Small Arms Control Standards module on men, women and the gendered nature of small arms and light weapons.[19] The module provides guidance for practitioners on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of gender-sensitive small arms and light weapons control initiatives. Additionally, the 2017 call for proposals for the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation required for the first time the inclusion of gender considerations for all funding applications.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa continued to support gender-focused activities and the participation of women at all levels of decision-making. In December 2017, the Centre organized a capacity-building workshop to help develop substantive and advocacy skills for supporting gender perspectives in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes in the Lake Chad basin. Civil society representatives from four Lake Chad basin countries — Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria — were joined by government representatives of those same countries to discuss several themes that underscored the important role of women in fighting the proliferation of arms and ammunition. The workshop, in which 85 per cent of participants were women, was part of a project funded by Sweden, to increase the participation of women at all levels of decision-making in conflict resolution. The initiative, entitled "Mainstreaming gender perspectives in preventing the acquisition of arms and ammunitions by terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin", is also designed to reduce illicit arms trafficking in support of the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific promoted a gender perspective in all its activities by ensuring the highest possible female participation at its events and by selecting female experts whenever possible. The gendered impact of the illicit small arms trade was a central element of two subregional workshops organized by the Centre in 2017 to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and to reduce illicit arms flows.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean continued to include gender issues as a cross-cutting theme in the design and implementation of all its projects. In December 2017, the Centre organized its first regional symposium on women and security, which was held in Peru and brought together more than 40 women from the region dedicated to advancing the global peace and security agenda. The Centre also made a significant effort to include women in its activities: over the course of 2017, on average, female participation reached 40 per cent.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs at the Vienna International Centre continued to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, including through the implementation of its Women Scholarship for Peace initiative to train young female professionals on peace, disarmament and non-proliferation. In 2016, 170 early career female professionals from the global South received scholarships through the programme. In 2017, the Office began implementing a similar training

[18] http://smallarms.un-arm.org/national-reports.

[19] www.smallarmsstandards.org/isacs.

course for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe region, whereby 60 scholarships have been provided to train local early career female professionals working on issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

In its resolution 1325 (2000), the Security Council encouraged all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to take the diverse needs of females and males ex-combatants and their dependents into account. In its first resolution on that topic (resolution 65/69), the General Assembly recognized the significant contributions of women to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Both resolutions have helped raise awareness on the importance of engaging women in peace, security and disarmament efforts.

Women have been peacebuilders and spoilers of peace. They perform a critical role as back end support to the male combatants, as frontline active combatants themselves, as dependants and as peacebuilders advocating for their sons, husbands and fathers to silence the guns. However, women and girls have not equally benefited from the services, cash incentives, health care, training, travel remittance, small business grants or housing support that flow to their male counterparts — males with guns — as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration packages. Leaving women and girls outside of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration undermines the sustainability and equitable development.

Pursuant to the implementation of these resolutions, UN-Women and women's civil society organizations have been instrumental in advocating and lobbying for gender-responsive disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, women and women's organizations played a prominent role in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which resulted in a Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 and the achievement of treaty-based prohibition of nuclear weapons. The treaty negotiations were chaired by a female president, Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez of Costa Rica. The UN-Women office in the Latin American and Caribbean region collaborated with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in a symposium to engage over 40 women working on security, disarmament and/or development from 26 countries in the region to bolster the momentum created by the Centre's *Forces of Change* publications and to strengthen the emerging network of female professionals working for a safer future for the region.

In the Sudan, UN-Women Sudan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are implementing a joint disarmament, demobilization and reintegration project in the Darfur region. The project is strengthening community stabilization through the reintegration of male and female ex-combatants, including through the provision of livelihood support. Technical support has also been extended to law enforcement officers through training sessions on human rights and international conventions on the protection of women. A total of 50 police officers have been trained to date, covering the five states in Darfur.

As active member of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, UN-Women is leading the revision of the gender module and mainstreaming gender in the other modules of the Integrated

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards that will be launched in 2018.

IV. Replies received from other international organizations

European Union[20]

[Original: English]
[14 May 2018]

The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women are important priorities for the European Union. The European Union is fully committed to mainstreaming gender into all disarmament work, including with regard to nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. This is reflected in the fact that gender and disarmament is one of the 11 high-level priorities for the three disarmament and non-proliferation working groups of the European Union.

The European Union believes that the active participation and leadership of women in peace and security decision-making and action are crucial in achieving peace, security and sustainable development. The role of women in these areas, including disarmament and non-proliferation, should be enhanced by ensuring systematic gender analysis and the integration of gender perspectives.

The European Union and its Member States have a long-standing commitment to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and subsequent resolutions of the Council on women and peace and security, in their internal and external actions. The unanimous adoption of resolution 2242 (2015) sent a strong message of continuous engagement of the international community on advancing the women and peace and security agenda in an effort to address emerging global challenges. The European Union actively promotes the strengthened and effective implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and expansion of its scope.

The European Union continues its efforts to integrate gender and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security into its Common Security and Defence Policy. All planning documents for Policy missions and operations make reference to the requirements to integrate gender perspectives and to include specific activities focused on gender equality, women's empowerment, and women and peace and security.

[20] The full text of the information provided by the European Union will be available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/topics/gender). A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

United Nations A/73/116

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 July 2018
English
Original: Arabic/English/French/
Russian/Spanish

Seventy-third session
Items 99 (b), (i) and (p) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Nuclear disarmament; follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons; reducing nuclear danger

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present annual report refers to the efforts undertaken to facilitate the implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and contains a compilation of views submitted by Member States.

* A/73/50.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Observations	3
III.	Information received from Governments	6
	Austria	6
	Cuba	8
	Ecuador	9
	El Salvador	9
	Lebanon	11
	Madagascar	11
	Mexico	11
	Russian Federation	12
	Ukraine	14

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 72/58, 72/38 and 72/41.

2. In paragraph 3 of resolution 72/58, the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken with respect to the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the Assembly of that information at its seventy-third session.

3. In paragraph 22 of resolution 72/38, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

4. In paragraph 5 of resolution 72/41, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute to the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war (A/56/400, para. 3), and to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-third session.

5. By notes verbales dated 6 February 2018, Member States were invited to communicate their views on the issue. Replies received from Member States are included in section III below; any views received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs,[1] in the language of submission only. No addenda will be issued.

II. Observations

6. Since the previous report (A/72/321), States have undertaken various efforts to facilitate the implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. In particular:

(a) An informal meeting of the General Assembly to mark the observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests was held on 30 August 2017 at United Nations Headquarters. Opening statements were made by the President of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, Peter Thomson (Fiji), by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General, and by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Roman Vassilenko. Following the opening ceremony, a plenary debate was held to reflect on progress made to end nuclear testing, current and emerging challenges, and opportunities to strengthen the global norm against testing;

(b) Pursuant to the declaration, by the General Assembly, of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (resolution 68/32), the meeting to commemorate that day was held on 26 September 2017. It was chaired by the President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, Miroslav Lajčák (Slovakia). The Secretary-General marked the occasion with a message in which he highlighted that a world free of nuclear weapons was a global vision that required a global response and reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to work with all States to achieve that objective. As was the case in 2016, civil society also made an important contribution to the commemoration and

[1] www.un.org/disarmament.

promotion of the International Day. Statements were delivered by representatives of non-governmental organizations;

(c) The 2018 session of the Disarmament Commission, the first session of its three-year cycle, was held from 2 to 20 April 2018 in New York, chaired by Gillian Bird (Australia). At the session, procedural reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies were adopted. The report of the Commission for 2018 (A/73/42) reflects that, during its 10 meetings, Working Group I on agenda item 4, "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", held extensive discussions. The Chair, Diedre Mills (Jamaica), introduced non-papers addressing objectives, principles and recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, on which views were exchanged and various proposals made. A number of delegations sought to promote discussions on a more focused topic, including recommendations for urgent action to reduce risks, facilitate further reductions and prevent the use of nuclear weapons. Following discussions by the Working Group, the Chair decided to issue a Chair's paper, under her own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. The Chair also annexed to her paper a compilation of written proposals, made by Member States at the 2018 meetings of the Working Group, without prejudice to the right of any State to put forward additional proposals in the future. The Working Group agreed to continue its discussion on the Chair's paper at the next session of the Commission;

(d) Under the guidance of the first President of the 2018 session, Ravinatha Aryasinha (Sri Lanka), the Conference on Disarmament adopted decision CD/2119 establishing five subsidiary bodies. The subsidiary bodies were mandated (i) to reach an understanding on the areas of commonalities in the Conference on Disarmament by taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future; (ii) to deepen technical discussions and broaden areas of agreement, including through the participation, in accordance with the rules of procedure, of relevant experts; and (iii) to consider effective measures, including legal instruments for negotiations on each of the agenda items of the Conference. Subsequently, under the guidance of the third President of the 2018 session, Sabrina Dallafior (Switzerland), by decision CD/2126, Hasan Kleib (Indonesia) was appointed as coordinator for subsidiary body 1, Cessation of the arms race and nuclear disarmament, while Robbert Jan Gabriëlse (Netherlands) was appointed as coordinator for subsidiary body 2, Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters. In line with the timetable annexed to the decision, the subsidiary bodies will each hold seven meetings to execute their mandates. The coordinators will submit to the Conference on Disarmament, through its President, a report on the progress achieved and agreed in each subsidiary body, for adoption and due reflection in the annual report of the Conference to the General Assembly;

(e) The two nuclear-weapon States with the largest arsenals took steps to implement the reductions agreed to in the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. According to information provided by the parties, in February 2018, the United States and the Russian Federation met the central limits on strategic arms of the Treaty. As at 5 February 2018, according to the data provided by the parties on their aggregate holdings of strategic offensive arms, the Russian Federation possessed 527 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,444 warheads on those systems, and the United States possessed 652 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,350 warheads on those systems.

7. In addition to the efforts discussed above, the following other multilateral initiatives have been pursued that could contribute to the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons:

(a) At the tenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 20 September 2017, ministers for foreign affairs and other high-level representatives of States adopted a Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In the declaration, they reaffirmed the vital importance and urgency of the entry into force of the Treaty and urged the remaining eight annex 2 States, whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty, to sign and ratify it without further delay;

(b) The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held in Geneva from 23 April to 4 May 2018. Adam Bugajski (Poland) was elected to chair the meeting. The session was ultimately unable to agree to attach the Chair's factual summary to its report. Following past practice, the Chair announced that he would submit his summary as a working paper under his own responsibility. On key disarmament matters, States parties underlined the necessity of fully and effectively implementing the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference, including the action plan. With respect to other regional issues, many delegations condemned the nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but cautiously welcomed dialogue between that country and the United States. Support was expressed for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3 (China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States), and several delegations stressed the need for all parties to maintain their constructive engagement;[2]

(c) On 20 September 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (A/CONF.229/2017/8) was opened for signature in New York. The Treaty will enter into force 90 days following the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification. As at 5 July 2018, 59 States had signed the Treaty and 11 had ratified it;

(d) In General Assembly resolution 71/259, the Secretary-General was requested to establish a high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group, to convene in 2017 and 2018, with a mandate to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of a future non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. The preparatory group was requested to examine, with a view to making recommendations, the report of the group of governmental experts established by the Assembly pursuant to its resolution 67/53 (A/70/81), as well as the views submitted by Member States on the issue as contained in documents A/68/154, A/68/154/Add.1, A/71/140/Rev.1 and A/71/140/Rev.1/Add.1. Informal open-ended consultative meetings were convened in New York, in March 2017 and February 2018, by the Chair of the preparatory group. The consultative meetings were intended to allow all Member States to engage in interactive discussions and share their views. At the time of preparation of the present report, the preparatory group had concluded its second and last session in Geneva and had adopted a consensus report to be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the

[2] See www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt2020/prepcom2018/.

General Assembly at its seventy-third session and to the Conference on Disarmament prior to its 2019 session.

8. Despite some progress in implementing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and pursuing new initiatives to support those goals, setbacks and growing impatience with the slow pace of progress have persisted. In particular:

(a) Progress towards the implementation of the 1995 resolution on a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East has been challenging. During the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, most States parties reaffirmed their support for the concept of convening a conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East; however, it is clear that, despite many efforts, States of the region have not come closer together on a mutually agreeable path leading towards the establishment of such a zone;

(b) The Conference on Disarmament has not resumed negotiations, despite some progress owing to the adoption of decision CD/2119;

(c) While efforts towards reducing existing stockpiles are acknowledged, the estimated total number of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, still amounts to several thousand. Moreover, States continue to rely on nuclear weapons in defence and security policies and undertake programmes to modernize their weapons, delivery systems and related infrastructure;

(d) The Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted its sixth nuclear test on 2 September 2017, and a further six launches using ballistic missile technology between August and November 2017. In 2018, however, the previous cycle of escalation gave way to intense diplomatic efforts on advancing sustainable peace and the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The country has not conducted a launch using ballistic missile technology since its November launch of a missile of intercontinental range, and it announced a moratorium on nuclear explosive tests in April 2018.

9. In accordance with the Secretary-General's agenda for disarmament, entitled "Securing our Common Future", launched on 24 May 2018 in Geneva, the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs will increase their efforts to facilitate dialogue among Member States, through engagement in formal and informal settings, in order to help Member States to return to a common vision and path leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

III. Information received from Governments

Austria

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Against the background of consistent Austrian support for nuclear disarmament efforts and its constitutional law (No. 149/1999) on a nuclear-free Austria, Austria strongly supports the conclusion and recommendations for follow-on actions agreed upon at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and is also particularly engaged in overcoming the current lack of effectiveness of the United Nations disarmament machinery, in particular that of the Conference on Disarmament, and the resulting absence of substantive multilateral disarmament negotiations.

Building notably on the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, Austria is convinced of the need to fundamentally change the discourse on nuclear weapons and to foster the understanding that any use of nuclear weapons would be morally repugnant and devastating in its effects on the whole world and all of humankind. Consequently, it is difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with international law, in particular with the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. Austria considers the mere existence of nuclear weapons to be unacceptable, given the risks of their use, either intentionally or by accident or mistake, and the resulting unacceptable humanitarian consequences.

The humanitarian initiative has re-emphasized the important fact that nuclear weapons concern not only the security of the few States possessing them, but also that of all States of the world. This is true not only with regard to the spread of nuclear weapons to additional States, but also with regard to those that already have them. As reflected in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the devastation caused by a nuclear war would be visited upon all mankind, not only upon the States immediately involved militarily. The final document of the 2010 Review Conference acknowledges that by referring explicitly to the principle of undiminished security for all. In view of the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons, undiminished security for all will only be attained by the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Austria has therefore vigorously supported nuclear disarmament efforts, which it considers an obligation for all States. The humanitarian considerations have become a decisive factor for the negotiations for a legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, which took place within the United Nations framework in March, June and July 2017 in New York. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted in July 2017 by 122 States. Together with 50 other States, Austria signed the Treaty in September 2017, on the margins of the General Assembly. On 8 May 2018, Austria ratified the Treaty.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons represents the first concrete result of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations since the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996. It contributes, in particular, to the implementation of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, thereby strengthening the latter as a whole. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons constitutes an impressive manifestation of the view of the vast majority of States that nuclear weapons, far from providing security, are actually an existential threat for humanity, owing to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of their use. Austria submitted a working paper on the security implications of nuclear weapons to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, held in Geneva from 23 April to 4 May 2018.

Furthermore, Austria would like to refer to the importance of recognizing, within the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its review cycle, the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and the need to comply at all times with international law and international humanitarian law. Since the previous Review Conference in 2015, the progress of international discussions on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons proceeding from the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference has been a momentous development in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Those discussions have led to accumulated evidence on how any use of a nuclear weapon would have a disastrous, far-reaching and long-term impact. In order to underline the urgency of nuclear disarmament, help fundamentally change the discourse on nuclear weapons and foster the understanding that any use of nuclear weapons would be morally repugnant and devastating in its global effects, Austria submitted a working paper on that issue, jointly with some 20 other States, to the second session of the Preparatory Committee

for the 2020 Review Conference. Austria remains committed to engaging in multilateral negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects, under strict and effective international control, including under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[11 May 2018]

Cuba concurs with the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. In this context, Cuba has actively participated in the major multilateral forums addressing this topic, namely the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission, the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

As a State party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which established the first densely populated nuclear-weapon-free zone and part of the region officially declared a zone of peace, Cuba has called on nuclear-weapon States and others protected by the nuclear umbrella to comply with their clear obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Although it has been more than 20 years since the International Court of Justice declared the use of nuclear weapons illegal in its advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, very little progress has been made towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence continues to be a core part of the military defence and security doctrines of some States. Of even greater concern is the fact that some States envisage the use of nuclear weapons against States that do not possess them, in response to attacks using non-nuclear weapons.

We oppose the enhancement and upgrading of existing nuclear weapons, their delivery systems and related infrastructure, which is inconsistent with the obligation to adopt effective measures towards nuclear disarmament.

Cuba constructively supported the negotiations in the United Nations General Assembly culminating in the adoption on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which establishes a legally binding international standard for the prohibition of nuclear weapons without any exception or recognition of extenuating circumstances.

Cuba became the fifth State to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 31 January 2018, as proof the country's political will and commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons. Cuba calls for the early entry into force of the Treaty and its universalization and reaffirms that the only effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner within a clearly defined time frame.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

The foreign policy of Ecuador relating to nuclear weapons has always been guided by its Constitution, which condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, as a threat to the survival of humankind.

In line with these principles, Ecuador has ratified all the international instruments related to nuclear weapons, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the additional protocols on safeguards and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Ecuador also participated actively in the negotiation and adoption, on 7 July 2017, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was signed by the President of the Republic of Ecuador, Lenin Moreno Garcés, on the day of its opening for signature, 20 September 2017, and is in the constitutional process for subsequent ratification.

Article 1 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons expressly prohibits the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Thus it is manifestly clear, as the International Court of Justice stated, that if the use of a weapon is illegal, which is clearly the case of nuclear weapons because their catastrophic consequences are contrary to the principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, the threat of their use is also illegal. Consequently, all States should remove from their military doctrines any reference to nuclear deterrence and should refrain from engaging in military preparations that entail the possibility, and therefore the threat, of the use of nuclear weapons, whether their own or in the context of broad partnerships.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, of which Ecuador is a proud member, has reiterated at its summits of Heads of State and Government, most recently in January 2017 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity and a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as the Charter of the United Nations (special declaration on nuclear disarmament).

Following the ban on nuclear weapons, through a legally binding international instrument, the only effective guarantee against their use or threat of use is their total elimination, in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner, within a defined time frame.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

The Republic of El Salvador supports all actions aimed at strengthening the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, as well as all efforts to renew the commitment of the international community to move towards the definitive elimination of weapons of mass destruction, through multilateral negotiations and in accordance with the principles of verification, irreversibility and transparency.

As a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, El Salvador considers the Treaty as the foundation and cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament regime. It is therefore extremely important for El Salvador to reaffirm its commitment to the Treaty, in order to strengthen joint work for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

El Salvador believes that the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their use or threat of use is a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Therefore, El Salvador agrees with the vast majority of the international community that no State or international body is ready to adequately address the humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation and provide necessary assistance to those affected; in addition, the effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, irrespective of the cause, would have a devastating impact on multiple countries and populations across borders, including a regional or global impact.

In that regard, El Salvador is convinced that nuclear energy should be used for peaceful purposes only and recognizes the sovereign right of all countries of the world to exploit and use nuclear technologies solely and exclusively for these purposes, as established in article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Furthermore El Salvador is a proud to be a member of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean that was declared the first densely populated area free of nuclear weapons, as established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco). This reflects our commitment and duty to put an end to the arms race, especially in nuclear weapons, and to build global peace based on mutual respect and good neighbourliness, for the benefit of the region and all of humanity.

It is a matter of great concern to El Salvador that, more than 20 years after the adoption of the text of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the latter has not been able to enter into force. The annex II countries are therefore urged to take steps towards the swift ratification of the Treaty.

Accordingly, El Salvador considered it highly important to unconditionally support the negotiations, held within the framework of the United Nations in March and June of 2017, leading to the successful drafting of a treaty finally providing for the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons as part of the urgent need for all weapons of mass destruction to be explicitly prohibited under international law, as achieved under the regimes prohibiting the use and existence of biological and chemical weapons. This is consistent with the provisions of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In that regard, El Salvador participated actively in these landmark negotiations and also represented the region as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in order to achieve the best possible text. It worked in a transparent, comprehensive and inclusive manner with all members of the international community committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons to ensure that the Treaty included all ideas and perspectives that would guarantee the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world. El Salvador is therefore pleased to be one of the first countries to have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, on 20 September 2017, within the framework of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[10 April 2018]

Lebanese Army Command would like to reaffirm following:

- Lebanon does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction. It complies with the resolutions of the United Nations in that regard and is opposed to the legality of the threat or use of such weapons.
- Lebanon welcomes and supports all initiatives aimed at bringing about general and complete disarmament, especially in the Middle East, and emphasizes that the region should be free of weapons of mass destruction. It is, however, concerned at the failure of the Israeli enemy to comply with international law. Israel maintains a nuclear arsenal that constitutes a constant threat to all the States of the region and, consequently, to international peace and security.
- The Arab States must continue to call for the establishment of a region free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, because that is the only available option for addressing the threats that the nuclear armaments of the Israeli enemy and its other weapons of mass destruction pose to international peace and Arab national security.
- The international community should continue to demand that all States in the region, including the Israeli enemy, should sign treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons.
- It is imperative to unify the Arab position, expand the role of the League of Arab States, take action to acquire the scientific knowledge and secure the equipment required to protect against weapons of mass destruction, and follow up on efforts to demonstrate that the Israeli enemy does not participate in international treaties.
- Lebanon calls on the international community to begin using peaceful nuclear technologies and to increase their use in all endeavours that support sustainable development. It also calls for the various needs of the Arab States be taken into account.

Madagascar

[Original: French]
[15 May 2018]

The United Nations calls on Member States not only to ratify the various nuclear disarmament treaties, but also to comply with them.

Madagascar has joined these efforts by adopting and ratifying a number of the relevant international treaties.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[3 May 2018]

In its 1996 advisory opinion, the International Court of Justice notes the obligation to pursue in good faith, and to bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. Therefore, as a responsible global actor, Mexico participated fully and proactively during the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding

instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, held in New York in 2017.

For Mexico the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted on 7 July 2017, is a historic milestone. Its adoption and entry into force will represent an important step forward, demonstrating the existence of an international custom that prohibits the production, possession, use and transfer of nuclear weapons by the States that have decided to accede to it.

This instrument is consistent with the recognized and long-standing diplomatic tradition of support shown by Mexico for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Mexico therefore deposited its instrument of ratification on 16 January 2018.

Based on its firm conviction, Mexico will seek to encourage the early entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and will continue to participate actively in the various forums dealing with nuclear disarmament.

Since 2009, Mexico has proposed an amendment within the framework of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in order to characterize the use of nuclear weapons during an international armed conflict as a war crime.

At the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, Mexico, in its national capacity and with the support of other States, was the co-author or main sponsor of the following resolutions on disarmament issues adopted by the First Committee:

(i) Resolution 72/45: Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas.

(ii) Resolution 72/58: Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

(iii) Resolution 72/39: Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments.

(iv) Resolution 72/31: Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

(v) Resolution 72/30: Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

(vi) Resolution 72/37: Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

(vii) Decision 72/514: Nuclear disarmament verification.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[15 May 2018]

The Russian Federation is committed to achieving the long-term goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction. We believe that the corresponding process must be conducted in strict accordance with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in a context of universal and complete disarmament. The only realistic option in this regard is to adopt a balanced and phased approach involving the gradual establishment of a conducive environment to progress towards nuclear disarmament, so that appropriate steps can be taken to strengthen international stability and security on the basis of the principle of increased security for all. Indeed, this approach was developed by consensus under the review process of the Treaty.

We respect the views of those advocating the rapid renunciation of nuclear weapons. We are united by the shared noble aim of building a world free of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, we consider attempts to focus the disarmament process on the

early and unconditional prohibition and renunciation of nuclear arsenals to be premature and disconcerting. We believe that such initiatives not only fail to contribute to the stated noble objective, but also threaten the viability and effectiveness of the groundbreaking Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We are convinced that the movement for nuclear disarmament should be led in a way that strengthens international security and stability, without destabilizing the existing world order.

In our view the international community's efforts with regard to nuclear disarmament should, at this stage, be focused on paving the way for further steps in this field.

We call upon all members of the international community to vigorously engage in addressing urgent international security and stability issues. These include the unlimited deployment of global anti-ballistic missile systems, the development of high-accuracy strategic offensive weapons in non-nuclear equipment, problems affecting the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the prospect of weaponizing outer space and growing imbalances in the quantity and quality of conventional weapons. Failure to resolve these issues destroys trust between States, undermines the disarmament architecture and remains a major obstacle to effective disarmament efforts.

The Russian Federation has acted responsibly in accordance with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, taking concrete steps to limit and reduce its nuclear weapons and to uphold and strengthen the most important international legal regimes in the field of arms control and non-proliferation.

Over the past 30 years, Russia has contributed significantly to promoting a world free of nuclear weapons, having managed to reduce its nuclear arsenal by over 85 per cent.

The 1987 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles ensured the destruction of two classes of missiles: over 1,800 ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of between 500 and 5,500 kilometres, and more than 800 of their launchers. In total, over 3,000 nuclear warheads with an explosive yield of over 500,000 kilotons have been deactivated. Russia has put forward a proposal to make the obligations under that Treaty universal.

The Russian Federation has fully complied with its obligations under the 1991 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms and the 2002 Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Strategic Offensive Reductions. Russia has reduced the number of its deployed strategic warheads from 9,000 to 1,700 units, and has also decommissioned more than 1,600 launchers for intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, more than 3,100 such missiles, approximately 50 strategic ballistic missile submarines and some 70 heavy bombers.

On 8 April 2010, the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms was signed in Prague (it entered into force on 5 February 2011).

In this Treaty, the parties agreed to cut the total number of warheads by one third to 1,550 units (the ceiling prior to the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions had been 2,200 units) and the maximum number of strategic delivery vehicles by more than one half to 700 units (the ceiling prior to the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms had been 1,600 units, while the Treaty on

Strategic Offensive Reductions had not restricted them). An additional limit of 800 units is established for deployed and undeployed launchers of intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, as well as heavy bombers. By the verification date of 5 February 2018, Russia had fully complied with its obligations to reduce its arms in accordance with the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. The total capacity of strategic arms held by Russia was even lower than the limits for deployed vehicles and warheads set out in that Treaty. As at 5 February 2018, Russia had declared 527 deployed delivery vehicles for strategic offensive weapons (intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers) and 1,444 warheads attributable to them, as well as 779 deployed or undeployed heavy bombers and launchers of intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

The Russian Federation has unilaterally taken a range of other significant measures. It has, in particular, reduced by three quarters the number of non-strategic nuclear weapons. We reassigned these weapons to the undeployed category after concentrating them exclusively within the boundaries of the national territory at centralized storage bases, where an extremely strict security regime is enforced. Another step in this direction was the decision by the Russian Federation for its nuclear weapons not to be target-specific, as they are not equipped with target assignment capabilities.

Russian military policy has significantly diminished the role and the significance of nuclear weapons. The possibility of using them is restricted to two exceptional cases: an attack on Russia and its allies using weapons of mass destruction or when the very existence of the State is endangered as a result of aggression against our country. That is, strictly for defensive purposes. We observe in this regard that allegations about the increasing role of nuclear weapons in Russian policy documents are inaccurate. This is further supported by the emergence of the concept of "non-nuclear deterrence" in the military policy of Russia.

Further progress in nuclear disarmament requires efforts by all States concerned. Any advances in this area must serve to strengthen international security and stability. A realistic approach to nuclear disarmament, based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, would involve the gradual and mandatory involvement of all States with nuclear military capabilities. This is the only way in which it would be possible to achieve a balance of interests acceptable to all parties, ensure consideration of crucial international security issues and create an environment conducive to progress towards nuclear disarmament.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Ukraine, as a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee, has been exercising control over international transfers of goods that could be used for the creation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of their delivery. Ukraine has also taken measures for the establishment of responsibility and penalties for violation of its national legislation in that area in order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

In 2004, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Decree No. 86, which sets out the procedures for international transfers of dual-use goods, including nuclear

goods. The lists of the dual-use goods that are subject to the above-mentioned procedures are attached as annexes 1–5 to the Decree. The structure and content of the lists correspond to the control lists of the international export control regimes, such as the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Australia Group.

In order to ensure transparency in transfers, and pursuant to its national legislation, Ukraine submits reports to IAEA on international transfers of specified equipment and non-nuclear material listed in annex II to the Protocol Additional to the Agreement between Ukraine and IAEA for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Pursuant to paragraph 7.8 of the Understandings of the Zangger Committee, Ukraine submits reports to the Secretariat every year on the licences issued for the transfer, to non-nuclear-weapon States that are not parties to the Treaty, of goods specified in the trigger list and intended for peaceful purposes.

United Nations A/73/117

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2018
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Seventy-third session
Item 99 (d) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/46. It addresses the further strengthening of the relationship between disarmament and development within the United Nations. In addition, the report contains information received from Member States on the subject.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/46	2
III.	Replies received from Governments	3
	Brunei Darussalam	3
	Jordan	4
	Lebanon	5
	Oman	5
	Peru	6
	Ukraine	6
IV.	Reply received from the European Union	7

* A/73/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 72/46, on the relationship between disarmament and development, the General Assembly stressed the central role of the United Nations in the relationship between disarmament and development and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field.

2. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development (see A/CONF.130/39).

3. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. Furthermore, in paragraph 7, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

4. On 2 February 2018 the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States seeking their views on this issue. At the time of writing, replies have been received from Brunei Darussalam, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Peru and Ukraine. The European Union also sent its views. This information is contained in sections III and IV below. Any view received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs[1] in the language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/46

5. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to strengthen its role regarding the relationship between disarmament and development. This is pursued mainly through three avenues: inter-agency coordination on matters that affect peace, security and development; the coordination of efforts towards achieving the goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the promotion of transparency and confidence building in military spending.

6. Peace, security and development are inextricably linked, as there can be no development without peace and no peace without development. Solid, enforced arms regulation and adequate weapons management can contribute to a safe and stable environment, which, in turn, is a necessary condition for the achievement of sustainable social and economic development. Clearance of mines and explosives from fields, infrastructure and roads allow their productive use for civilians looking to take up their lives and livelihoods. Low levels of illicit arms in circulation reduce the risk of armed conflict and violence and create a precondition for post-conflict reconstruction that could lead to enhanced investment opportunities. The coordination mechanism within the United Nations on small arms, the arms trade and ammunition (Coordinating Action on Small Arms), chaired by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, chaired by the Mine Action Service, are two mechanisms ensuring that full attention continues to be paid by entities of the United Nations system to the development-related aspects of arms regulation and disarmament.

[1] www.un.org/disarmament.

7. The Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism has in recent years addressed issues such as developing system-wide policies on small arms and on improvised explosive devices, which have significant implications for development. In addition, it is a primary mechanism through which United Nations entities coordinate their activities in relation to the Arms Trade Treaty and Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action coordinates activities within the United Nations to address the inhumane and indiscriminate consequences of landmines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions. Coordinated clearance and destruction of such weapons, victim assistance and awareness-raising have a positive impact on development prospects for communities affected by these weapons.

8. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under target 16.4, set an ambitious target to significantly reduce illicit arms flows. The United Nations endeavours to assist States further in strengthening their capacity to attain that target. An indicator has been developed to measure progress towards the target, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) are coordinating efforts within the United Nations Secretariat on reporting, data collection and monitoring for the indicator.

9. Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations states the need for "the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources". Reduction of military expenditures has long been on the agenda of the United Nations and as are the promotion of transparency and confidence among States on the matter. To this end, the Office for Disarmament Affairs maintains the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, a voluntary transparency instrument by which Member States exchange information related to their military expenditures. In recent years, on average, around 40 States have submitted reports. For the instrument to be effective, close-to-universal annual participation by Member States remains essential.

III. Replies received from Governments

Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]
[14 May 2018]

Brunei Darussalam supports disarmament efforts and the non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction at both the regional and global levels. Brunei Darussalam is a party to most of the major instruments relating to disarmament and the non-proliferation of such weapons.

Brunei Darussalam is of the view that disarmament is an integral part of the maintenance of stability and security, which are in turn prerequisites to the development of the nation.

Brunei Darussalam balances its spending, putting equal emphasis on defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, while also undertaking development projects and nation-building activities. Brunei Darussalam follows its national objectives as stipulated in its initiative Brunei Vision 2035 and is currently implementing its eleventh national development plan.

Besides participating in disarmament initiatives and regional security efforts, Brunei Darussalam has also undertaken various measures in realizing the Millennium Development Goals and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[11 May 2018]

The United Nations and the international community have given considerable attention to disarmament and socioeconomic development. This topic is linked to the issue of the arms race and continuing military expenditure, which negatively affect the world's human, financial and natural resources and place a significant burden on national economies.

In the Arab world, States' weapons spending has increased owing to political, economic, financial and social problems, enforced collective migration, wars and internal conflict, all against the backdrop of the current conditions and the presence of terrorist organizations. As a result, their foreign debt has grown and development has lagged. Arab States have increased their spending on weapons systems with a view to achieving a strategic balance in conventional weapons and maintaining security and public order. In short, expenditure has been redirected from development to the military.

International terrorism and the terrorist organizations that act as its proxies have directly affected security and stability in the region and in States around the world. The consequences in political, economic, social and humanitarian terms have been drastic. States have taken on high levels of expenditure in order to tackle and suppress terrorism, and their development programmes have suffered as a result.

Specialists estimate that real military expenditure has seen a dramatic increase since the 1980s, as compared with previous years. Annual expenditure grew to 15 per cent, and military expenditure passed the $100 billion mark in 1990. Statistics show that military expenditure in the period 1989–1991 was far greater than in the period between the two world wars. However, total global military expenditure over the last decade has seen a 16 per cent increase as compared with previous decades.

The Arab world accounts for a high proportion of global arms imports, especially since the outbreak of conflicts in the Arab region and the so-called Arab Spring. Growing arms purchases have caused States' domestic budget deficits and foreign debt to swell, and development has seen a slowdown.

Development, the acquisition of armaments and military expenditure are closely interrelated. The growing squeeze on resources for development, combined with the increasing military expenditure resulting from conflict, have caused a significant shortfall in the development process in the region. Some States have borrowed funds and exploited their own natural resources in order to invest in armaments instead of development.

From a humanitarian perspective, the conflict has caused a considerable number of deaths, permanent disabilities and injuries. It has exacerbated unemployment and caused substantial refugee flows, which have destabilized the region's economies, societies, industry, education and development planning.

As regards security and border control, States have allocated a share of their financial resources to confronting smugglers and saboteurs in order to protect their borders. This, too, has added to their military expenditure.

States are focused on the need to preserve their security, something that is a natural right guaranteed by the United Nations. Military expenditure can, however, be reduced without affecting security interests, so long as States that adopt such an approach can be given international guarantees that they will be protected.

If military expenditure is curbed and the concept of security through confidence-building measures is strengthened, it will be possible to allocate financial, human and material resources to civilian purposes and scientific and economic projects that would boost development in those countries.

At several forums on armaments, Jordan has stated that it is fully committed to United Nations non-proliferation and disarmament programmes. It has developed its legislation and taken the following actions at the national, regional and international levels:

- At the national level, Jordan has adopted laws, regulations and procedures regulating weapons. It has adopted laws setting forth procedures for the import, storage, transfer and brokering of weapons, and prohibiting the illicit trafficking thereof. Jordan has removed all of the anti-personnel landmines from minefields on the border. A large proportion of the land has been reallocated to agriculture and returned to civilian farmers.
- At the regional level, Jordan has ratified the conventions on armaments and arms control concluded at the League of Arab States level.
- At the international level, Jordan has acceded to numerous international conventions on disarmament and non-proliferation. It consistently encourages the international community to maintain peace and security, prevent conflict by resorting to peaceful solutions and constructive negotiations, and build confidence among States at all levels.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
8 May 2018

The Army Command wishes to make the following points:

Lebanon has consistently supported instruments related to disarmament in general and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in particular, because such weapons constitute a threat to security and peace, and the funds that are spent on them could be used in and contribute to the advancement of various spheres of development.

Lebanon is beset by armed violence and is in need of all possible assistance in relieving the suffering that it causes. Notwithstanding the security and military circumstances that are currently affecting the country, and the onerous duties that the army must undertake both along the borders and inside the country with a view to implementing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), all means available are being used to promote economic and social development.

Lebanon is working continuously to eradicate all forms of armed groups, combat illegal arms trafficking and attempted arms smuggling along the Lebanese border, and thus provide the security that is needed in order to revive the economy and attract investment.

Oman

[Original: Arabic]
[16 April 2018]

Oman has consistently pursued a policy of balance in all areas. It is continuing its efforts to achieve socioeconomic change and development. For that purpose, it is implementing comprehensive plans that involve all sectors of society, organizations

and the private sector. It attaches particular importance to military development, to the extent needed. It aims to ensure that such efforts are carefully calibrated and do not clash with or impinge on its other development plans.

The actions taken by Oman to achieve socioeconomic development account for part of the resources allocated to implementation of the disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. Oman has made financial contributions and donations of a technical and other nature to human rights organizations. Represented by the Ministry of Defence, it has acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It takes part in United Nations meetings regarding the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The Ministry, represented by the Sultan's Armed Forces, is making every effort to promote social development and health in the country to the extent necessary. It engages with society in the process of development and construction. It has partnered with the private sector to implement numerous projects and armament contracts, which are fulfilled by companies. For instance, engineering capacities have been used to pave roads, dig wells, build social housing, provide military transportation and aviation, and offer medical services.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

The investments that are being made in the armed forces at the institutional level are intended to maintain and guarantee security and national defence and to combat the proliferation of illegal items within the army's areas of responsibility.

The defence investments of Peru are among the lowest and most transparent in Latin America as compared with the spending and gross domestic product of each State in the region. This fact has been confirmed by the reports of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which participates in global security conferences and forums and carries out independent analysis of information regarding global security and military spending.

In accordance with their current structure and capacities, the armed forces fulfil the functions mandated by the Peruvian State and strike an appropriate balance when allocating military spending in defence of the nation.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Ukraine understands the importance of redirecting expenditures from military to civil purposes. It fully supports the endeavours of States and diverse international governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake measures in this regard.

However, since 2014 Ukraine has been facing severe military aggression from Russia. The Russian terrorist forces continue to conduct offensives in eastern Ukraine. The aggressor State builds up its military capacities in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, impeding security not only in the Black Sea area but also in the whole south of Europe as well as in North Africa and the Middle East.

Under such conditions Ukraine is forced to increase financing for military purposes in order to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Currently, the invader State makes it impossible to pursue economic and social development by implementing disarmament and arms limitation measures. Ukraine's efforts are directed towards the restoration of peace and security in the country and the reinstatement of control over internationally recognized borders.

Therefore, only the full compliance by all Member States, first and foremost for Ukraine by Russia, with the Charter of the United Nations could create the indispensable preconditions to achieve economic and social development in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/46 on the relationship between disarmament and development.

IV. Reply received from the European Union

[Original: English]
[14 May 2018]

Disarmament and development are interrelated, notably regarding the fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. As already recognized in 2001 in the Programme of Action, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and causes a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels. Target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals explicitly mentions the objective of significantly reducing, by 2030, illicit financial and arms flows. In its strategy to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, adopted by the European Council on 16 December 2005, the European Union responds to the threat posed by illicit small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and underlines the need for consistent security and development policies.

In a concrete follow-up to the European Union's strategy against illicit small arms and light weapons, the European Union provides considerable assistance through a number of projects to various countries to strengthen the action against accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons. Since 2004, more than €100 million has been contracted to small arms and light weapons control projects. The priorities include: stockpile management; the destruction of surplus and confiscated small arms and light weapons; capacity-building for marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons; and tracking the sources of illicit weapons and ammunition in conflict affected areas. The European Union is also assisting countries in enhancing their national arms transfer control systems to prevent weapons from falling into unauthorized hands. The European Union also financially supports activities of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and, more generally, confidence-building and transparency measures on arms transfers, which can contribute to decreasing the arms race. The European Union's support to the Arms Trade Treaty can be mentioned in this regard.

Further to small arms and light weapons control projects, disarmament projects are also funded by the European Union regarding anti-personnel landmines and chemical weapons. All European Union member States are parties to the respective conventions banning landmines and chemical weapons and requiring their destruction by States parties. European Union support is notably provided to a number of States parties to complete such destruction.

Under various development related financial instruments, the European Union also funds projects relevant to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration within its larger post-conflict peacebuilding efforts.

United Nations A/73/118

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 99 (mm) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/57, the annex to which contained the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World. The report reflects the efforts and initiatives undertaken by Member States to implement the Declaration since the adoption of the resolution.

* A/73/50.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/57, the annex to which contained the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World.

2. In paragraph 3 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the Declaration.

II. Efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Universal Declaration

3. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, States have undertaken various efforts aimed at achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, including in the context of the following:

(a) The 2016, 2017 and 2018 sessions of the Disarmament Commission were held in New York and were chaired by Odo Tevi (Vanuatu), Gabriela Martinic (Argentina) and Gillian Bird (Australia), respectively. Procedural reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies were adopted at the three sessions. The reports reflected the fact that Working Group I had held extensive discussions on agenda item 4, Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Owing to divergent viewpoints, however, Member States were unable to reach consensus on substantive recommendations on the agenda item;

(b) During 2016, 2017 and 2018, States continued their efforts to return the Conference on Disarmament to work. At the initiative of the first President of the 2017 session of the Conference, Adrian Vierita (Romania), the Conference established a working group on the "way ahead" to identify common ground for a programme of work with a negotiating mandate (see CD/2090). The working group held meetings on all the agenda items of the Conference, including the four core issue agenda items: nuclear disarmament; a fissile material treaty; prevention of an arms race in outer space; and negative security assurances. Under the guidance of the first President of the 2018 session, Ravinatha Aryasinha (Sri Lanka), the Conference adopted decision CD/2119, in which it decided to establish five subsidiary bodies mandated:

(i) To reach an understanding on the areas of commonalities in the Conference by taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future;

(ii) To deepen technical discussions and broaden areas of agreement, including through the participation, in accordance with the rules of procedure, of relevant experts;

(iii) To consider effective measures, including legal instruments for negotiations on each of the agenda items of the Conference.

By its decision CD/2126, and under the guidance of the third President of the 2018 session, Sabrina Dallafior (Switzerland), the Conference appointed Hasan Kleib (Indonesia) as the coordinator for subsidiary body 1, on the cessation of the arms race and nuclear disarmament; and Robert Jan Gabriëlse (Netherlands) as the coordinator for subsidiary body 2, on the prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters. The coordinators will submit a report on the progress achieved in each subsidiary

body to the Conference, through the President, for adoption and due reflection in the annual report of the Conference to the General Assembly;

(c) The first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons were held in Vienna from 2 to 12 May 2017 and in Geneva from 23 April to 4 May 2018, respectively. The first session of the preparatory committee was chaired by Henk Cor van der Kwast (Netherlands), and the second by Adam Bugajski (Poland). Delegations at the two sessions were unable to agree on whether to attach the Chairs' summaries to the session reports. As a result, and in accordance with past practice, the Chairs submitted their summaries as working papers under their own responsibility. During the first and second sessions of the preparatory committee, delegations underlined the necessity of implementing the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference, including the action plan. On other regional issues, many delegations condemned the nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. During the second session, delegations cautiously welcomed dialogue between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America. Delegations expressed support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3 (China, France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America). During the second session, several delegations stressed the need for all parties to maintain their constructive engagement so as to ensure that progress was made towards the full implementation of the Plan;

4. Other initiatives that have been pursued as a means of contributing to the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons include the following:

(a) Meetings of the General Assembly to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons were held on 26 September 2016 and 2017. At the meeting held in 2016, the Secretary-General marked the occasion with a message in which he urged the international community to work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons with urgency and a sense of collective purpose. In his remarks at the meeting held in 2017, the Secretary-General highlighted that a world free of nuclear weapons was a global vision that required a global response;

(b) Meetings of the General Assembly to mark the observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests were held on 31 August 2016 and 30 August 2017 at United Nations Headquarters. During the 2016 meeting, opening statements were delivered by the President of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, Mogens Lykketoft (Denmark), by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General, as well as by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations. The opening ceremony was followed by a high-level interactive panel on the theme "Strengthening the global norm against nuclear tests". During the 2017 meeting, opening remarks were made by the President of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, Peter Thomson (Fiji), by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General, and by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, Roman Vassilenko. During both meetings, participants deliberated on current and emerging challenges, and on opportunities to strengthen the global norm against testing;

(c) On 13 June 2016, over 120 delegations attended the opening of the ministerial meeting held in Vienna to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The meeting brought together leaders and policymakers to address, review and reinvigorate the

discussion on the entry into force of the. On that occasion, ministers and other high-level participants renewed their commitment to a legally binding global ban on nuclear testing. In New York, on 21 September 2016, ministers for foreign affairs and other high-level representatives adopted a joint statement at the eighth ministerial meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The ministers reaffirmed the role of the Treaty as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and its entry into force as a major contribution to international peace and security. In New York, on 20 September 2017, at the tenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty (article XIV conference), ministers for foreign affairs and other high-level representatives adopted the Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In the declaration, participants reaffirmed the vital importance and urgency of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and urged the remaining eight Annex 2 States, whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty, to sign and ratify it without further delay;

(d) The second and third substantive sessions of an open-ended working group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of a preparatory committee, of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (see resolution 65/66), were chaired by Fernando Luque Márquez (Ecuador) and were held from 11 to 15 July 2016 and from 5 to 9 June 2017, respectively. Delegations discussed a range of substantive issues related to the possible objectives and agenda of a fourth special session. At the third session, the Chair introduced a working paper entitled "Objectives and agenda of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament". The working group adopted, by consensus, the report and the recommendations contained therein regarding the objectives and agenda of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which was submitted to the Assembly at its seventy-second session;

(e) In its resolution 70/33, the General Assembly decided to convene an open-ended working group with a mandate to substantively address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that would need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. The first and second substantive sessions of the working group, chaired by Thani Thongphakdi (Thailand), were held in Geneva in February and May 2016. Member States, civil society and international organizations participated in both sessions. Following the first substantive session, the Chair submitted a synthesis paper reflecting the main points of discussion. During the second substantive session, further discussions were held on a range of elements considered important for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear weapon-free world;

(f) In 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/259, in which it requested the Secretary-General to establish a high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group that would convene in 2017 and 2018 to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of a future non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. The Assembly also requested the expert preparatory group to examine the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (A/70/81), established pursuant to Assembly resolution 67/53, with a view to making recommendations. Informal open-ended consultative meetings were convened in New York by the Chair of the preparatory group in March 2017 and February 2018. The consultative meetings were intended to allow all Member States to engage in interactive discussions and share their views. The expert preparatory

group concluded its second and last session in Geneva in and adopted, by consensus, a report that the Secretary General will transmit to the Assembly at its seventy-third session and to the Conference on Disarmament prior to its 2019 session;

(g) In 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/67, in which it requested the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts, comprising up to 25 participants, to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament, taking into account the report of the Secretary General on nuclear disarmament verification (A/72/304), in which he addressed the development and strengthening of practical and effective nuclear disarmament verification measures and the importance of such measures in achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons. The first meeting of the group was held from 14 to 18 May 2018, with Knut Langeland (Norway) acting as Chair;

(h) On 7 July 2017, the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, convened pursuant to resolution 71/258, adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by a vote of 122 to 1 (Netherlands), with 1 abstention (Singapore). The Treaty opened for signature in New York on 20 September 2017 and will enter into force 90 days following the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.

5. At a bilateral level, on 5 February 2018, the United States and the Russian Federation met the central limits of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms ("New START").

6. With the aim of contributing to the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, the Secretary-General launched his disarmament agenda entitled "Securing our common future" in Geneva on 24 May 2018. The agenda provides an opportunity to revitalize joint efforts to create a safer and more secure world and an occasion to prove the significance of disarmament to preventing, mitigating and resolving conflicts. One of the core priorities of the agenda is the theme "Disarmament to save humanity", which is aimed at reducing and eliminating weapons of mass destruction, namely, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. During his presentation on the disarmament agenda, the Secretary-General reaffirmed his commitment to working towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons and called on Member States to revitalize their pursuit of that goal without delay. As indicated in the agenda, the Secretary-General will redouble his efforts to re-energize nuclear disarmament discussions and will seek progress, together with Member States, in the following three areas: resuming dialogue and negotiations for nuclear arms control and disarmament; extending the norms against nuclear weapons and their proliferation; and preparing for a world free of nuclear weapons. The disarmament agenda also integrates disarmament into the priorities of the whole United Nations system, laying the foundations for new partnerships and greater collaboration between different parts of the organization and Governments, civil society, the private sector and others.